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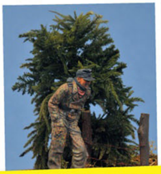

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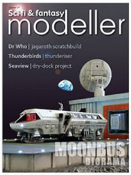

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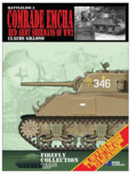

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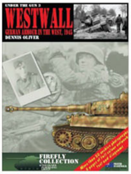

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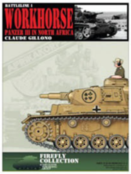

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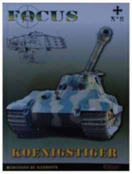

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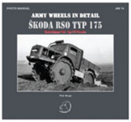

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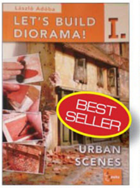

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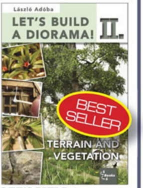

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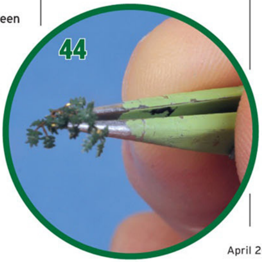

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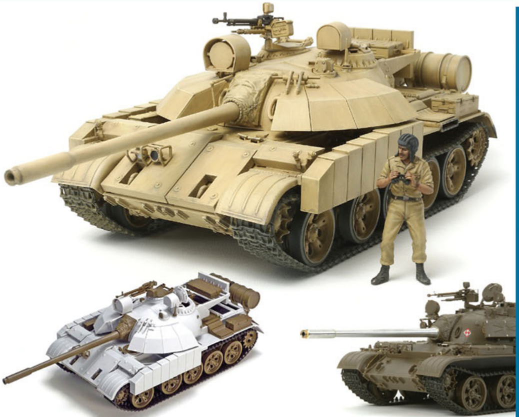


TAMIYA ENIGMA (AND OTHER NEW GOODIES)

Iraq was a major operator of T-54/55 series tanks and ordered their first 250 T-54s from the former Soviet Union in 1958, followed by 50 more in 1965. Many of these were lost during the Yom Kippur War so 300 T-55s were ordered in 1973. Other purchases followed: 50 and 400 T-55s from the surplus stocks of East Germany and Poland respectively in 1980; 250 T-55s and 150 TR-580s (Romanian version of the T-55) from Egypt and Romania respectively in 1981; another 400 T-55s, including some Czech-built examples, from the former Soviet Union in 1981; and about 1,500 Type 59 and Type 69 tanks were bought from China during the 1980s.

Since the T-54/55s were introduced in the period after WWII, the basic design was becoming obsolete by the 1980s. Many countries thus developed upgrades in order to modernize the T-55 and Iraq was no exception. Although the official Iraqi designation is not known, their upgraded variant was called T-55 "Enigma" by Coalition forces during the 1991 Gulf War. This Iraqi variant focused on armour upgrades and was likely modelled after the T-55AM, which featured extra armour blocks on the glacis and turret. The Enigma expanded on this to also include armour blocks on the sides of the hull and the rear of the turret. These blocks were made up of armour plates welded into boxes to create a sort of spaced armour and they were then attached to the hull and turret. Two large blocks with holes to allow access to the tow hooks were bolted to the glacis, with the left block positioned lower to aid the driver's field of vision. A smaller armour block was installed on the front section of each mudguard and eight other blocks were mounted along each side of the hull. Two sets of four armour blocks curved along the front and sides of the turret, with the forward left-side block hinged to facilitate driver ingress/egress. Two long arms extended from the rear of the turret, onto which four armour blocks were installed to serve as a counterweight. Although the armour blocks on the Enigma looked similar, poor construction meant they each differed slightly in size.

Tamiya has upgraded their excellent 1:35 scale T-55 with a large number of new parts to create the Iraqi Enigma. In addition to the extra armour and other distinguishing features, Tamiya will include a standing Iraqi crew figure.

We will have a full review when this kit becomes available.

In more news from Shizuoka, Tamiya will also release versions of their 1:35 scale T-55 and IS-2 tanks with photo-etched parts and replacement turned barrels.

Thanks to Tamiya for the information and images. Tamiya kits are distributed in the UK by The Hobby Company Limited
www.hobbyco.net

"WARHORSE TANK" ON DISPLAY AT BOVINGTON

The Tank Museum has obtained the tank used in Steven Spielberg's new World War One blockbuster Warhorse.

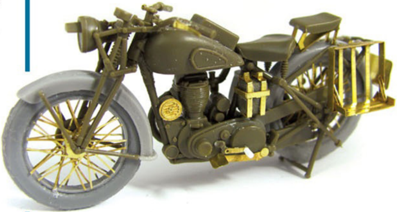
The fully operational replica of a British Mk IV tank will be on diaplay in the Dorset based Museum's tank displays later in the year.

The full sized replica was based on the Museum's own Mark IV, which was built in 1917. Oscar award-wining special effects company Neil Corbould Special Effects LTD, whose credits include Saving Private Ryan and Gladiator, visited The Tank Museum in 2010 to take measurements from the vehicle and copy original documents related to the MK IV tank held in the Museum's Archive.

"The vehicle is wonderful re-creation with all the presence and menace of the real thing," said museum curator David Willey. "But inside, it remains simple and modern."

"We obtained this replica because, with the World War One centenaries approaching, we wanted a working example of a tank that was representative of that conflict," David added. "For conservation reasons, we are no longer able to run any of our own vehicles from this period. We have long been investigating the possibility of building our own replica so when this vehicle became available to us we were eager to acquire it."

The replica will be one of the many unique vehicles staring at The Tank Museum's TANKFEST event in June.



BSA M20 MOTORCYCLE UPGRADE FROM INSIDE THE ARMOUR

Inside the Armour's latest release is kit no. 35052, a multimedia upgrade for Tamiya's 1:35 scale BSA M20.
This useful upgrade includes resin tyres and mudguards to show the gap between wheel and guard, photo-etched parts for the spokes, seat brackets, license plate, pannier racks, pedals, brake levers and various other parts.
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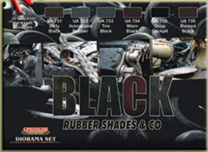
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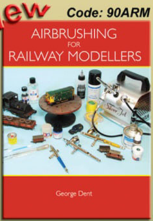

AIRBRUSHING FOR RAILWAY MODELLERS

George Dent

This book is packed
with useful techniques
suitable for airbrushing
a range of models

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(left) Assembled & painted by
Eth Middleton with LifeColor
acrylics & an Iwata airbrush

12.8cm K44 L/55
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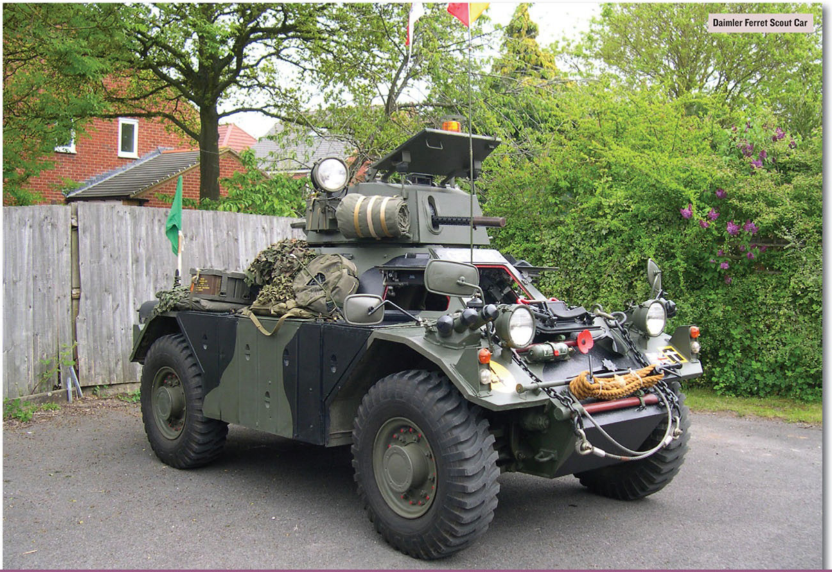

Daimler Ferret Scout Car

HAMPSHIRE BY FERRET

As a Friend of the Tank Museum at Bovington in Dorset, when **Gwyneth Wright** was invited to 'go ferreting' by another 'Friend' she automatically assumed he meant a Ferret scout car not a small furry animal with large teeth.

My opportunity to command a Ferret scout car came about when I was chatting with Rob O'Brien at the Tank Museum and mentioned to him that Mike Hayton, the Workshop Manager, had said he would let me drive one of their Ferrets. He didn't know when, but to remind him. Rob immediately said 'You can always come out for a ride in mine if you like. To see what its like from up top'

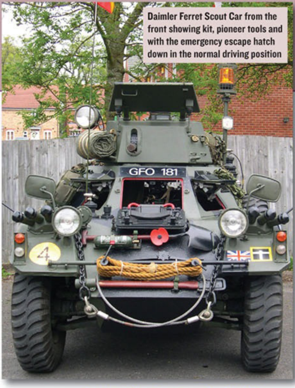
Arriving at Rob's home near Basingstoke I knew I'd got the right place as the Ferret was already out of its garage and raring to go. Well almost. The first thing to do was to adjust the wing mirrors so Rob had some rearward vision. The mirrors have to be moved right in before the Ferret will fit in Rob's garage and, yes, it does fit in an ordinary single garage - just. Mirrors adjusted, Rob walked me around the vehicle telling me all about it and pointing out where I was to sit, what I needed to watch out for and so on.

The guided tour over we climbed aboard and plugged in the Clansman intercom – absolutely essential as, although the driver is only a couple of feet in front of you, yelling (no matter how loudly) simply doesn't work. With a Rolls Royce B60 Mk6A engine just behind me I didn't stand a chance of being heard (I later found out the fuel tanks were also just behind me, with no fire wall and no fire control system).

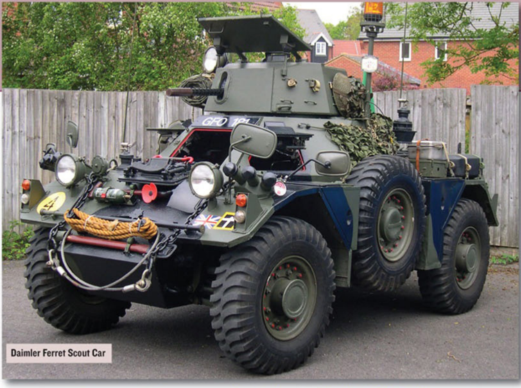
Rob had told me roughly where we were going but, with his restricted vision from the low driver's seat at the front, my job was to advise when vehicles were coming up behind, what vehicles were in the vicinity when we were turning left or right, make appropriate hand signals and say how much room was behind when reversing in the pub car park!

I was a little nervous as the first thing we had to do was turn right onto a fairly busy main road. As it turned out this was dead easy as all the cars seemed to have slowed down so the drivers could take a good look at us, with two stopping to let us out. People were still looking at us when they pulled up behind and beside us at the traffic lights and I wasn't sure if I was supposed to try and look cool or to wave and smile at them. We got even more surprised looks when we detoured into a petrol station and put £40 of V-Power into the tank (it's a good job for them the pumps have automatic cut-off as I'm sure some of them were paying more attention to us that to filling their cars). Although Rob and I weren't going that far it says in the manual you get 9 mpg but in reality its only 5 mpg and you definitely don't want to run out as pushing it isn't really an option.

Underway again, we zipped along at a steady 30 mph through the Hampshire countryside. Smelling the late bluebells in a wood we passed through reminded me that we were fairly exposed and made me realise how insulated we've all become in our fully heated, air-conditioned cars these days. Not so in the Ferret with no windscreen, seat belts or luxuriously padded seat. I felt perfectly safe but strangely, considering I was in an armoured vehicle, I could also see how vulnerable I might be. Returning to insulation for a

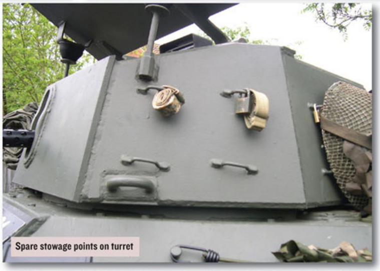


Daimler Ferret Scout Car from the front showing kit, pioneer tools and with the emergency escape hatch down in the normal driving position

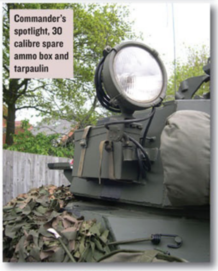


Daimler Ferret Scout Car

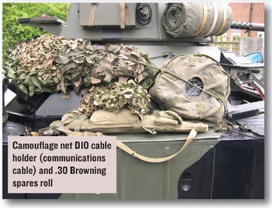
Drivers flashing beacon so other road users can see you. Note the Fursty Ferret beer pump handle sign



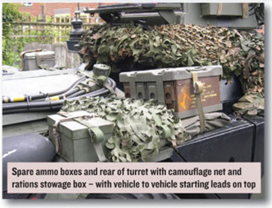
Spare stowage points on turret



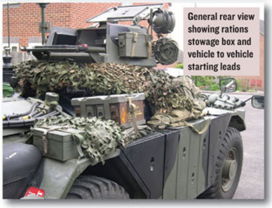
Commander's spotlight, 30 calibre spare ammo box and tarpaulin



Camouflage net DIO cable holder (communications cable) and .30 Browning spares roll



Spare ammo boxes and rear of turret with camouflage net and rations stowage box – with vehicle to vehicle starting leads on top



General rear view showing rations stowage box and vehicle to vehicle starting leads

moment, it was a lovely spring day but even at 30 mph I was glad I had overalls, gloves and a jacket on, even if I'd forgotten a scarf for my lower face.

We stopped at a pub for a J20 and, again, had some rather enquiring looks. Parking was no problem and neither was getting out, though perhaps people had just parked a long way from us in case we hit them while maneuvering. And, while the Ferret had looked perfectly normal at Rob's, it was strange to see it against the everyday Euro-blobs in a car park.

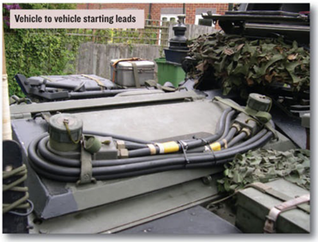
Back on board we returned to Rob's garage with me giving the appropriate advice and hand signals. The Ferret does have indicators but Rob had said people sometimes miss them when confronted by something as unusual as the Ferret.

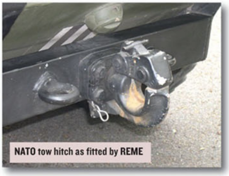
The roads weren't terribly busy on the mid-week day we'd gone out but I could see why Rob had chosen a quiet day for my first trip. He has a number of friends who go out with him but its always wise to train more as back up when you can. Will I go out with Rob again? YES, you bet. But I do still want to have a go of the pre-selector gearbox and oddly set-on steering wheel for myself – perhaps when Mike Hayton reads this he'll remember he said I could have a go at driving one!

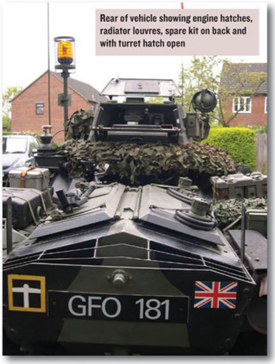
A FEW FERRET FACTS

The Daimler Ferret was a replacement for the World War II Daimler Dingo scout car. Fast and small, it was developed in 1949 with production starting in 1952. Produced through to 1971 there were different Marks and a number of variations on these Marks, with varying equipment, armament, turret/no turret and roughly 4,500 were built in total. It has been estimated that, including experimental versions and all the Marks, over 60 different variants were produced. They were mainly built on the same hull with different engines and turrets. Early vehicles had a .30 Browning, while later ones had the 7.62mm GPMG (General Purpose Machine Gun).

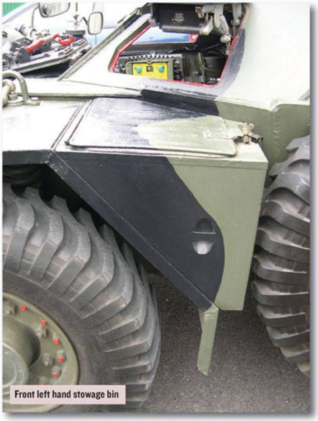
The all-welded steel monocoque constructed hull has two compartments. The fighting compartment is where the driver and commander sit. The driver's area in the front has one hatch in the centre and a viewing port to each side. The front hatch can be folded down onto the glacis plate and the two viewing ports open upwards. Each has a built-in periscope. The commander's area is in the middle and has a hatch cover that can be locked in one of four positions (flat forward, vertical, 45° backwards and fully closed) and the rear door of the turret folds flat, improving access to the fighting compartment and is sometimes used as a seat . There are two further viewing ports at the rear of the turret (under the camouflage net on Rob's Ferret) and a hull escape hatch on each side. One is covered by a stowage box and the other by the spare wheel. There is also a sighting periscope for the machine gun on the turret and six grenade launchers (three each side) which can also launch smoke grenades. The engine compartment is at the rear and encompasses the Rolls-Royce B60 Mk 6A six cylinder engine. The transmission/gearbox ▶

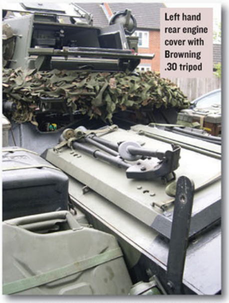

Vehicle to vehicle starting leads

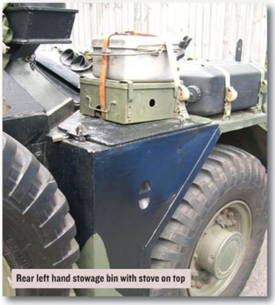

NATO tow hitch as fitted by REME

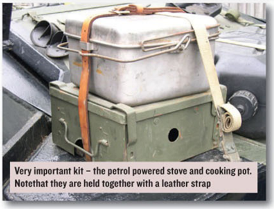

Rear of vehicle showing engine hatches, radiator louvres, spare kit on back and with turret hatch open

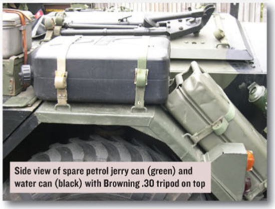
Close up of the army style of finishing the loose ends from buckle straps

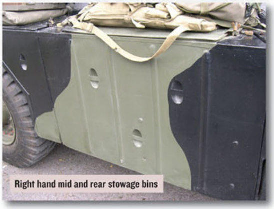

Front left hand stowage bin


Left hand rear engine cover with Browning .30 tripod


Rear left hand stowage bin with stove on top


Very important kit – the petrol powered stove and cooking pot. Notethat they are held together with a leather strap


Side view of spare petrol jerry can (green) and water can (black) with Browning .30 tripod on top


Right hand mid and rear stowage bins

is underneath the commander's seat (inside the fighting compartment), which helps give him an elevated position. There is a pre-selector gearbox with five gears in each direction and a fluid coupling transmission to the permanent four-wheel drive. The waterproofed engine needs the crankcase breather pipe to be vented, otherwise it will run under water with no further preparation. Earlier Marks had deep-fording kits while the Mk 3 and 4 models have a collapsible flotation screen that goes all round the hull. Some Marks carry steel sand channels for crossing soft terrain or trenches. Incidentally, the Ferret carried an external starting handle, which fitted in through a hole in the centre of the hull at the rear for use if the battery was very low.

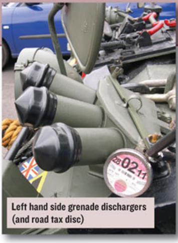
The turret in the Ferret was manually powered. The commander's shoulder is braced into the back of the machine gun and two grab handles used to push/pull the turret round into the required position.

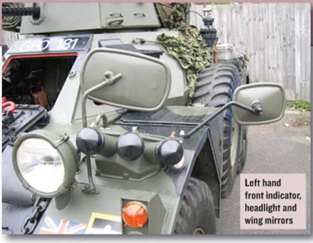
Although no longer in service with the British army – it was superseded by CVRs (Combat Vehicle Reconnaissance – tracked or wheeled) such as the Scimitar (still in service) or Scorpion (out of service) - the Ferret is still in operation in some Commonwealth countries.

ROB'S FERRET

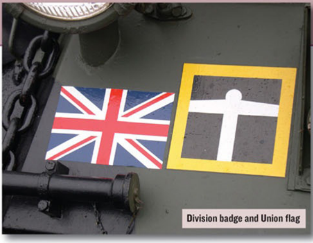
Rob's Ferret (MOD no. 02CC45 / Civil no. GF0181) is a Mark 2/5 which went into service on 21st July 1959. It served primarily in Germany (BAOR) from December 1959 until December 1974 when it was transferred into war reserve. It remained in the war reserve, with a major base overhaul in May 1985, until sold from Luggershall to a dealer in April 1994. Rob bought the vehicle in September 2006 and since then it has been in a state of on-going restoration. While in the army it served with 10th Hussars, 3rd Carabinnneers , Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, 14/20 Hussars RAC and 16/5 Lancers.

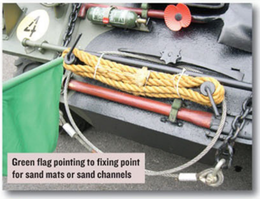
The 6-cylinder B60 Mk 6A engine produces a maximum 129 bhp at 3750 revs and has a safe speed of 45 mph (72.4 kph) although it is said they can travel

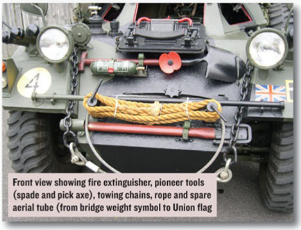

Left hand side grenade dischargers (and road tax disc)

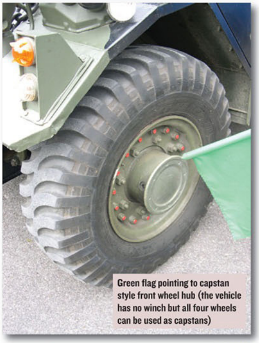


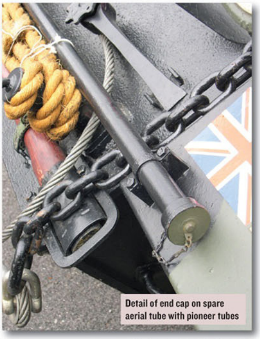
Left hand front indicator, headlight and wing mirrors

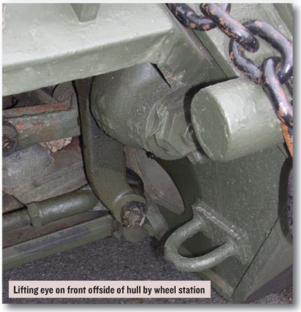

Division badge and Union flag

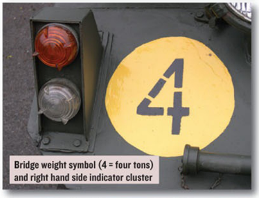

Green flag pointing to fixing point for sand mats or sand channels


Front view showing fire extinguisher, pioneer tools (spade and pick axe), towing chains, rope and spare aerial tube (from bridge weight symbol to Union flag

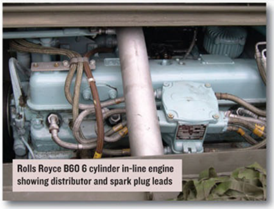

Green flag pointing to capstan style front wheel hub (the vehicle has no winch but all four wheels can be used as capstans)

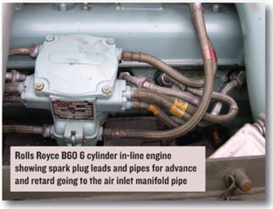

Detail of end cap on spare aerial tube with pioneer tubes


Lifting eye on front offside of hull by wheel station


Bridge weight symbol (4 = four tons) and right hand side indicator cluster

Engine modification record holder


Rolls Royce B60 6 cylinder in-line engine showing distributor and spark plug leads


Rolls Royce B60 6 cylinder in-line engine showing spark plug leads and pipes for advance and retard going to the air inlet manifold pipe

at 60 mph! On the road it has a range of 190 miles with a cross-country range of 100 miles. Fuel consumption on the road is 9 miles per gallon (3.2 Km /Litre) and 5 miles per gallon (1.7Km/ltitre) cross country – that's 1 mile per litre! On the other hand that's quite good when you consider it weighs 3tons 12cwt 2 qtr (3,683Kg) unladen and 4 tons 6cwt 2 qtr (4,394Kg) laden.

Armament consists of one .30 Browning machine gun, one Bren gun (in stowage) and one Sterling machine gun.

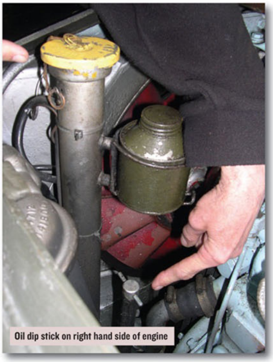
Rob's on-going restoration has seen GFO181 fitted with a Clansman intercom although it has a Larkspur radio and Larkspur intercom as a backup.

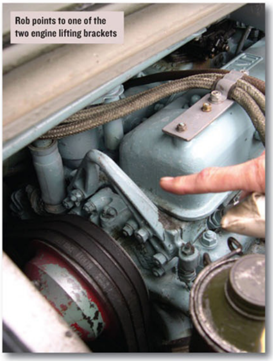
FROM THE DRIVING SEAT

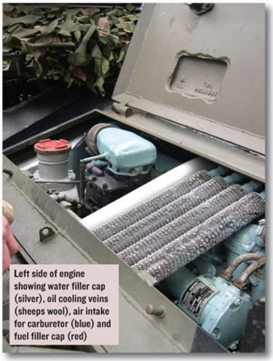
Rob loves driving his Ferret even if it is totally different from a road car. To start with the steering wheel appears upside down, which is a bit disconcerting, and you steer it with your palms upwards. Steering is very hard work at low speeds as there is no power steering but once on the move Rob finds it very nimble.

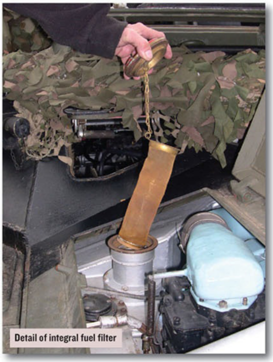
The pre-selector semi-automatic gearbox (like that on some of the old London busses) took a little longer to get used to. It has five gears and you use the forward and reverse transfer lever to select the direction of travel. One problem that can occur is getting a false neutral from the gear change pedal (GCP). The pedal kicks back to its fullest extent, locks up and takes a lot of strength to push down again.

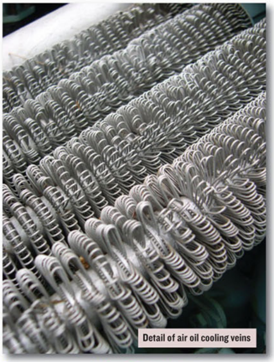
The starting procedure is also a little different from a road car. Before starting the engine (using the power supply, ignition and ▶


Oil dip stick on right hand side of engine

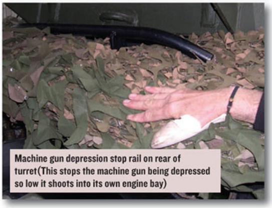

Rob points to one of the two engine lifting brackets

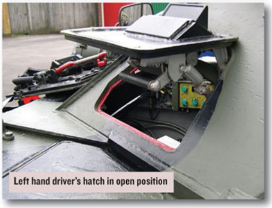

Left side of engine showing water filler cap (silver), oil cooling veins (sheeps wool), air intake for carburetor (blue) and fuel filler cap (red)

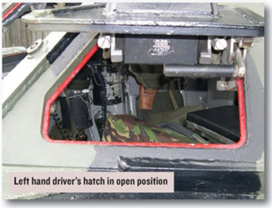

Detail of integral fuel filter


Detail of air oil cooling veins

Rob on GF0181


Machine gun depression stop rail on rear of turret(This stops the machine gun being depressed so low it shoots into its own engine bay)


Left hand driver's hatch in open position

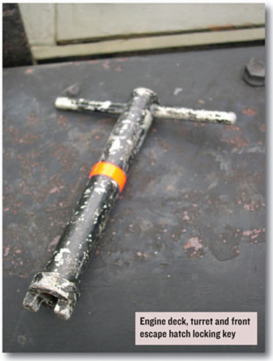

Left hand driver's hatch in open position

starter switches rather than a key) you have to select every gear in turn and pump the GCP several times, going up through the gears. Rob also does this going down through the gears as well. This slackens and centralizes the gear bands in the gearbox.

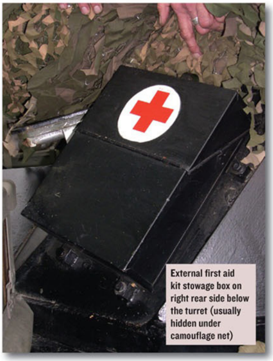
To start off you make sure the transfer lever is correctly selected for forward or reverse, put the gear lever in neutral, star the engine and select second gear (first is only used for very, very low speed). Then, with a quick firm movement press and release the GCP remembering that its not a clutch and you cannot ride it! Put your foot on the footbrake, take the handbrake off, take your foot off the footbrake and accelerate away. Once the GCP is used you select the next gear and when needed use the GCP again, selecting the next gear straight away. Once in fifth gear Rob usually selects third gear, his reason being that the Ferret brakes aren't that brilliant and the engine braking effect of third gear is often useful.

Once moving there is limited visibility so a good commander is very useful although you are legally allowed to take it on the road by yourself. Apart from a commander Rob also finds a flashing beacon a great asset – being a camouflaged vehicle can have slight disadvantages on motorways. The final bits of Rob's essential kit are goggles and good wet weather gear – he doesn't look on some of the challenges as disadvantages as he says its such a pleasure to own and drive the Ferret.

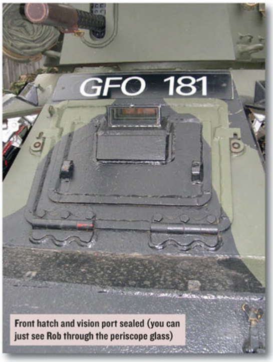
Tank Museum Workshop Foreman, Bob Nelson, served in the 13th/18th Hussars (a



Engine deck, turret and front escape hatch locking key

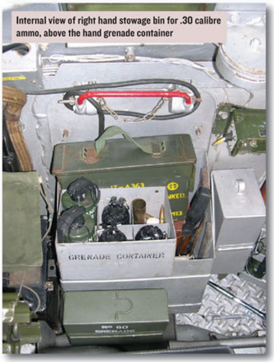


External first aid kit stowage box on right rear side below the turret (usually hidden under camouflage net)

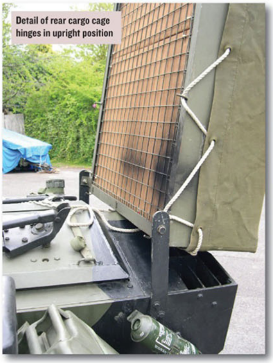


Front hatch and vision port sealed (you can just see Rob through the periscope glass)

Filling up with V-Max


GRENADE CONTAINER
No 80 GRENADE

Internal view of right hand stowage bin for .30 calibre ammo, above the hand grenade container



Detail of rear cargo cage hinges in upright position

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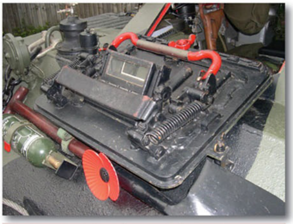
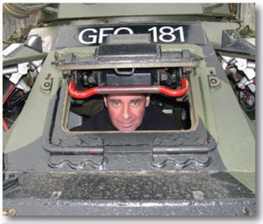
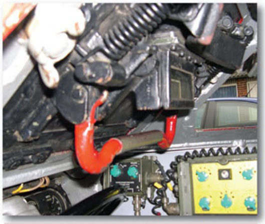


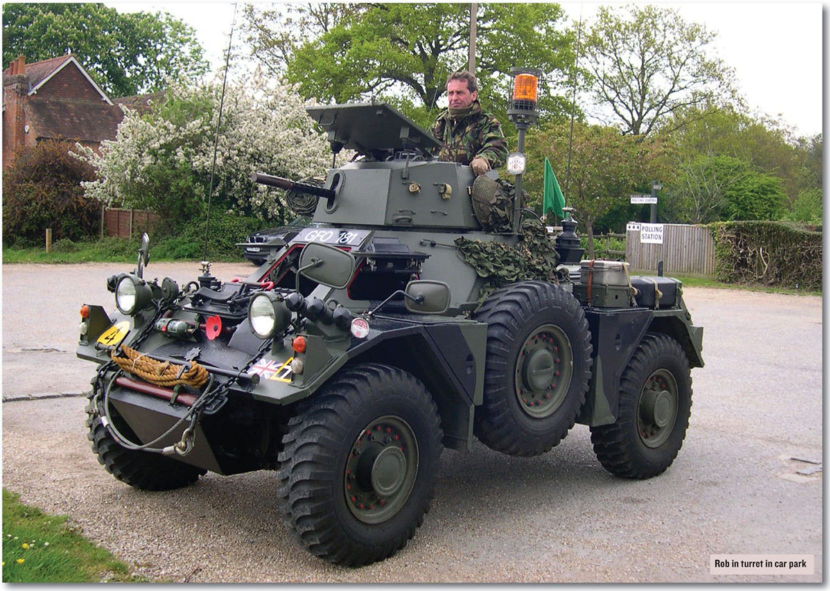
Driver's escape hatch in open (normal driving) position



Driver's escape hatch closed with Rob looking through the open vision port



Internal view of front hatch closed (taken through left hand viewing port). The steering wheel can be seen below the red hatch handle.

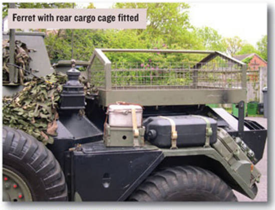


Rob in turret in car park

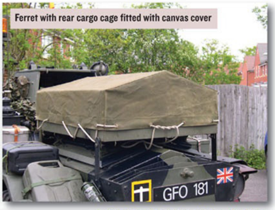
Reconnaissance Regiment within the Royal Armoured Corps) and drove and commanded Ferrets in the Green Zone (between the Greek and Turkish controlled areas) on Cyprus as part of UNFCYP (United Nations Forces Cyprus). Bob also loved the Ferret, both on road and off, saying that they were small and compact, nimble and easily concealed, and very quiet at low revs, which meant you could take them anywhere, including up mountainsides with 2 foot high boulders. He did stress that you had to be careful when off road - the Ferret has a high centre of gravity and could roll over fairly easily, especially if the tyre pressures were incorrect. This is why it is inadvisable to sit on the rear door of the turret (however tempting), the best position for the commander to adopt being to stand inside the fighting compartment with one foot on each of the drive shaft tunnels. This means you only have your head and shoulders exposed above the turret and if any problems or danger occurred you could drop onto the seat, closing the hatch as you go. The only time the commander sits on his seat in the Ferret is when he's firing the machine gun.

Bob is often seen driving one of the museums Ferrets in the arena displays which take place in the main school and half term holidays from spring to autumn. Incidentally the museum have five Ferrets on display – two in UN colours, one Mk 2/6 equipped with wire guided Vigilant anti-tank missiles, One Mk 5 (big wheeled Ferret) with swimming gear and Swingfire missiles, and one sectionalized hull (the top's been taken off) which means you can see the engine, transmission and gearbox, bevel boxes to take the permanent four wheel drive to the front wheels, oil bath air filter, pre-selector gear lever, forward and reverse transfer lever and oddly set on steering wheel.

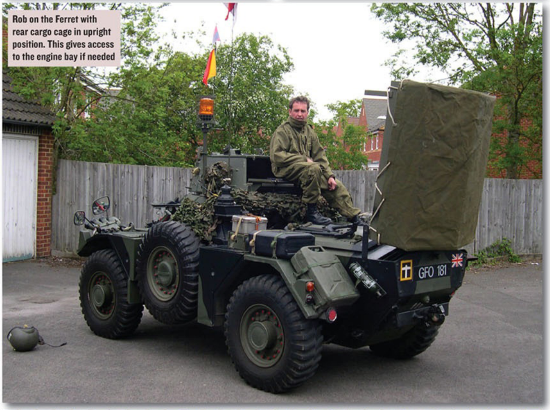
Finally, my thanks to Rob for taking me out on GFO181 and supplying lots of information, Bob Nelson for his time in talking about serving in Ferrets and rummaging through the 'workshop manual' and clarifying a few bits and pieces, and the Tank Museum for their support. ■



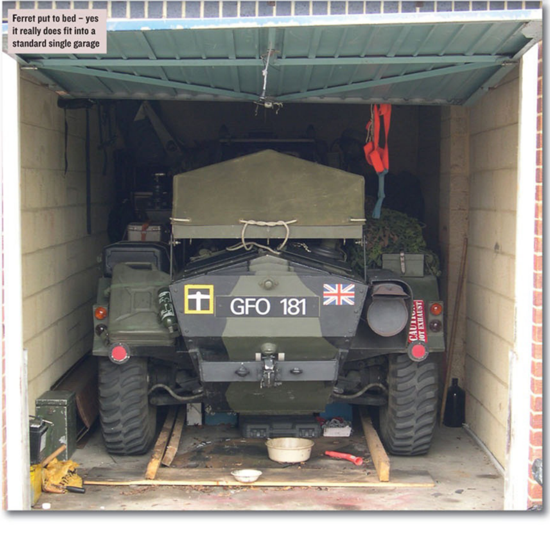
Ferret with rear cargo cage fitted



Ferret with rear cargo cage fitted with canvas cover



Rob on the Ferret with rear cargo cage in upright position. This gives access to the engine bay if needed



Ferret put to bed – yes it really does fit into a standard single garage

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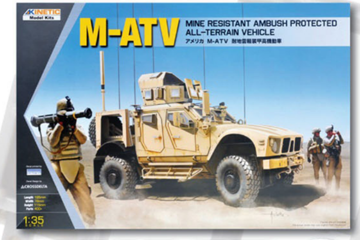
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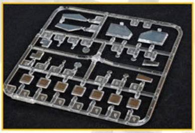
ACROSSDELTA
1:35

Kinetic has released an all-new 1:35 scale kit of the newest response to IEDs, the M-ATV. **The Editor** takes a look at the contents.

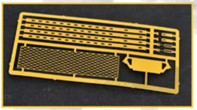
JUMBO JEEP

The M-ATV (Mine Resistant Protected All-Terrain Vehicle) is a new generation MRAP first developed in 2009 in response to the US Military's urgent request for a Humvee replacement.

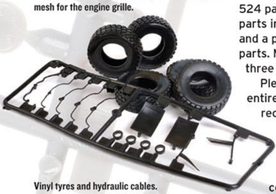
Truck manufacturer Oshkosh was awarded the M-ATV contract.



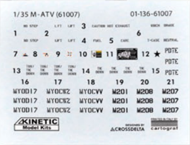
Clear parts include the armoured glass and headlights.



The modest photo-etched fret provides lovely fine mesh for the engine grille.



Vinyl tyres and hydraulic cables. Those tyres leave a big footprint!



Decals are beautifully printed by Cartograf.

The M-ATV was designed to offer equal levels of protection as larger MRAPs, yet with the high level of mobility and ruggedness required to deal with the harsh terrain of Afghanistan.

The new M-ATV can protect its crew against Improvised Explosive Devices even under the worst battle conditions. The V-shaped lower hull is a major factor in this level of protection. It can deflect blast effects and prevent the vehicle from flipping over after the impact of mines or IEDs.

The M-ATV is also a very versatile vehicle. The roof-mounted turret can accommodate systems including the M240 7.62mm machine gun, a Mk.19 grenade launcher or a BGM-71 TOW Anti-Tank Guided Missile Launcher. As at September 2010, more than 8,000 M-ATVs have been manufactured.

Underneath the attractive box art, Kinetic's new 1:35 scale M-ATV comprises approximately 524 parts in coloured plastic, 24 parts in clear, 23 black vinyl parts and a photo-etched fret with ten parts. Markings are provided for three vehicles.

Please note that this is an entirely different kit from the recently released Panda 1:35 scale M-ATV kit, with no parts in common.

Kinetic's plastic parts are presented in a caramel colour and are largely free from moulding flaws, although there is one sink mark on the windscreen surround that should be filled. Some of the smaller parts have a little flash to clean up too.

The level of overall detail is good, with the first twelve steps of the instructions dealing with the suspension. The chassis is moulded as one piece. This will make assembly easier, which is sensible as much of the detail in this suspension and chassis area will be covered by the V-shaped armoured lower hull.

The interior delivers the main features – seats, transmission, boxes etc. Each seat is made up from six parts and may be posed with the cushion up or down. The instrument panel has raised moulded detail supplemented with six decals. These should look good on the finished dashboard.

The cab is broken down into separate sides, front, rear and roof. The doors are moulded as inner and outer sections with deep detail on the each section. The armoured glass is represented by clear parts trapped between the door halves. The doors may be posed open or closed.

A lovely fine photo-etched mesh part is fitted behind the grille. Headlight lenses are clear parts.

The turret is fitted with separate clear vision blocks and a well-detailed .50 cal machine gun.

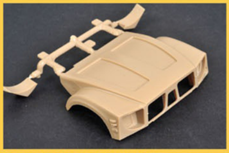
A number of optional aerials and accessories are provided, including a Rhino device, jerry cans, water cans and toolboxes.

The five black vinyl tyres look a bit slab sided. If, like me, you're not a fan of vinyl tyres there are already after-market replacements available in resin.

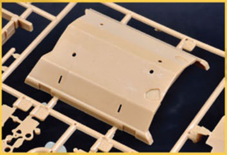
The small decal sheet is printed by Cartograf. As you would expect, registration and printing are perfect. Markings for four vehicles are provided.

Kinetic's 1:35 scale M-ATV looks to be a promising debut. We have seen steady improvements in Kinetic's aircraft releases over the last few years, and I look forward to seeing what they have for us next on the armour front. ■

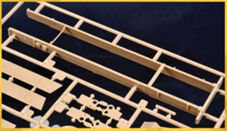
Kinetic Models are available online from Lucky Model www.luckymodel.com



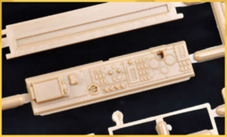
The one-piece bonnet and front fenders.



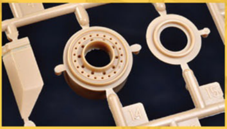
The big underbelly armur plate hides much of the suspension detail once the kit is built.



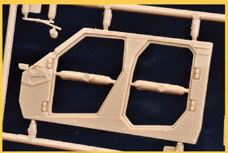
The long chassis.



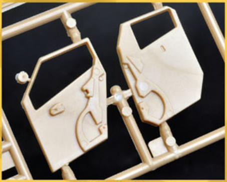
Instrument panel detail is supplemented with decals.



Nice hub detail on the spare wheel.



The body is broken down into separate sides, front, rear and roof.



Doors are a sandwich of interior and exterior parts.

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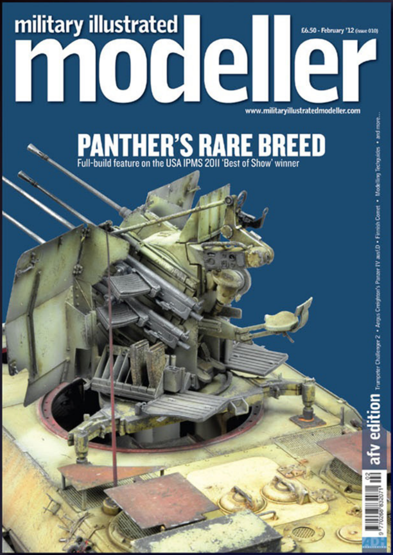
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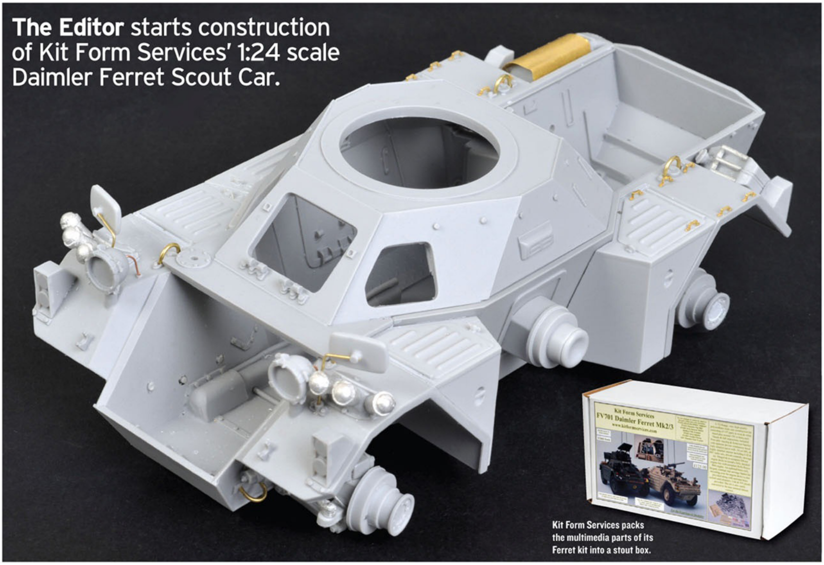


The Editor starts construction of Kit Form Services' 1:24 scale Daimler Ferret Scout Car.

Kit Form Services packs the multimedia parts of its Ferret kit into a stout box.

FIRST CLASS FERRET

PART ONE – GETTING STARTED

As soon as I saw Kit Form Services' 1:24 scale Ferret, I knew that I would have to build it.

Although 1:24 might not seem that much larger than 1:35, the scale is more than half as big again. This means that details that are very small in 1:35 suddenly snap into focus in 1:24 scale.

The Ferret might just be the ideal candidate for this scale, as the big engine hatches, the large turret entry flap, and the five vision hatches in the hull offer almost unprecedented access to all the minutiae of the engine and the fighting compartment.

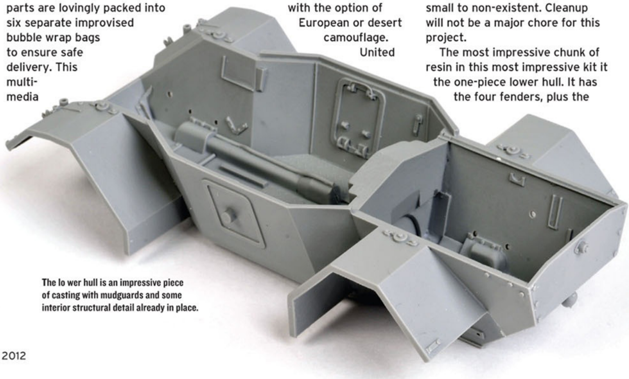
There is a good selection of colours and markings too. With front-line service stretching from the 1950s to the 1990s, we can choose to paint our Ferret overall UN white; or overall green; or disruptive green and black, or desert yellow for a Gulf War machine.

IN THE BOX

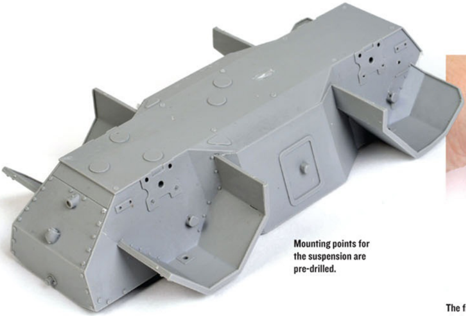
KFS' 1:24 scale Ferret Mk.2/3 comprises 157 parts in grey resin and white metal, with a further 150 parts on two impressive photo-etched frets at the bottom of the stout cardboard box. The resin parts are lovingly packed into six separate improvised bubble wrap bags to ensure safe delivery. This multimedia feast is rounded out with several lengths of brass rod, two plastic rods, a metal tube, three light lenses and four red lights, plus a sheet of textured khaki vinyl. Markings are provided for a number of different units, with the option of European or desert camouflage. United Nations markings are included too, for fans of white paint.

The resin parts are flawlessly presented with beautifully crisp detail. The casting is amongst the best you will find. Also pleasing is that the casting blocks range from small to non-existent. Cleanup will not be a major chore for this project.

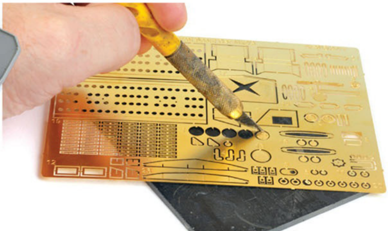
The most impressive chunk of resin in this most impressive kit it the one-piece lower hull. It has the four fenders, plus the

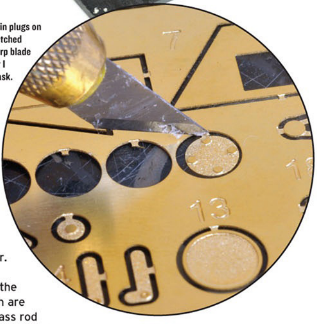


The lower hull is an impressive piece of casting with mudguards and some interior structural detail already in place.



Mounting points for the suspension are pre-drilled.





The first step is to install drain plugs on the lower hull. These photo-etched parts are removed with a sharp blade over a black Perspex tile that I bought specifically for this task.

engine compartment bulkhead and internal structural features all cast in place. It is essentially ready to use straight from the box, with no casting blocks or scars to worry about. Amazing.

The upper hull and one-piece main turret castings are beautifully presented too, with just some feather-like flash to remove before assembly.

Smaller resin parts maintain this high standard.

The kit features complete internal detail including a jam-packed engine compartment, transmission and drive train; and a fully-equipped fighting compartment and turret.

On the outside, we have resin and white metal suspension units that will allow the wheels to be turned even after assembly, a photo-etched muffler heat shield, and stowage in the form of jerry cans and various packs. All turret and hull hatches are separate, are detailed inside and out, and may be posed opened or closed. According to the instructions, with care and patience the engine access hatches may be made workable after assembly. The persiscope blocks may be glazed with supplied acetate sheet.

Instructions are supplied on 18 pages of A4 paper. They offer ample illustrations that are explained with related text. This is a complex kit, so I recommend that you make yourself thoroughly familiar with the instructions before you start gluing parts together.

The headlights are worthy of mention too. The lens is textured and the light has a silver backing. These should look great when mated with the resin headlight body. The orange and red tail lights will add character too, as will the reflectors using a combination of white paint and red decals.

The kit decals are in perfect register with good colour saturation and are matt in finish.

GETTING STARTED

It is especially important to be well organised when tackling a multimedia project such as this. We do not have the luxury of sprues to examine the parts, and the resin parts are unnumbered (although they are labelled in the instructions). My first task, then, was to familiarise myself with the resin parts and with each stage of the instructions.

The instructions suggest that the model be built in four main stages:

- The outer hull
- The engine and engine compartment
- The inner hull including the driver's compartment, and finally
- The finishing touches.

This first instalment will focus on building the lower hull, suspension, hubs, steering and external fittings.

The kit requires that a number of parts are fabricated, but the raw materials and sufficient instructions are supplied for a moderately experienced modeller. The first of these fabricated parts are the tie-down loops, which are bent from 0.8mm brass rod provided in the kit. These were bent into shape, cut to size and glued into the waiting locating holes with super glue.

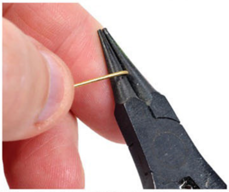
Next, I fished through various ziplock bags to identify and pick out all the resin pieces that would be required on the first page of the instructions. These were laid out on the white blotting paper on my modelling desk. Casting attachment points are admirably restrained, and in some cases no cleanup was needed at all. In any case, the resin is quite soft – even though the detail is crisp – so cleanup with a sharp knife is fast and easy wherever it is required.

In fact, I also found that a stiff toothbrush was useful for removing the very fine flash on irregularly shaped pieces such as the coil springs.

THINGS WITH SPRINGS

The suspension units and the stub axles have to be drilled through to accept plastic pins. The drilling holes are marked by indentations, and the soft resin is easy to drill through.

The four stub axles are supplied as identical parts with two steering arms on each. In the case of the rear stub axles, both steering arms must be cut off; while one arm should be cut from each of the front units. The instructions are quite clear about this surgery, but I marked each of the modified stub axles with a Sharpie to make sure they did not get mixed up during construction. ▶



High quality tools are a good investment. These round-nose electrical pliers are ideal for bending the supplied 0.8mm brass rod into shape for the lower hull lashing eyes.

The brass loops are bent in two stages. Note that the nose of the pliers has been faintly marked to ensure that all four hooks are bent to the same size.

The completed loops are cut off with a pair of sprue cutters.

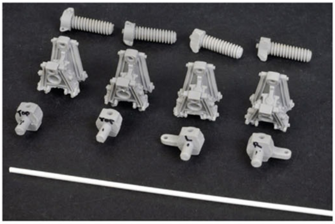
The completed brass lashing eyes ready for installation.

A number of the suspension parts need to be drilled out. The resin is sufficiently soft to ensure that drilling through the parts is not difficult.

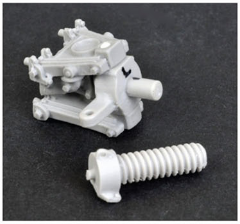
The steerable axle must be drilled all the way through. An indentation is cast into each end. I started by drilling from one end…

…and around halfway through I swapped, to finish drilling through the other end until the holes met in the middle.

The resin "springs" had a little feather-like flash along their lengths. This was easy to remove using a stiff toothbrush. I don't plan to clean my teeth with this again!

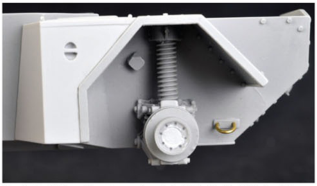


The basic suspension units. All of the axles start out as identical parts, but the steering links are cut off according to their ultimate position on the vehicle. Each of the parts has been marked to make it easier to keep track of them during assembly.

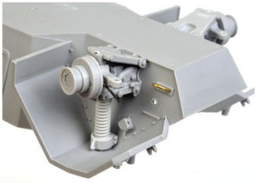


The steering axle is secured with a length of plastic rod. With very careful application of super glue, these can remain workable.

I accidentally drilled through one of the wheel hubs as I was deepening its locating hole. This was plugged with a cross-section of plastic cut from an old sprue.



The plugged hub was then generously coated with Tamiya Liquid Surface Primer.



The resin suspension parts attached to the lower hull. Fit was positive and tight, although a couple of the locating holes needed to be drilled out.

◀ Also note that the Ferret featured two-wheel steering, so the rear wheels should always be fixed straight ahead.

The white metal steering drop arms are held in place with photo-etched washers. If you are very, very careful applying super glue, these can be made workable. The same goes for the front steering stub axles – careful application of glue to the plastic hinge will mean that the axle can move. However, as the two front wheels would move independently from each other, I decided to glue them into a position so that both wheels were offset at the same angle.

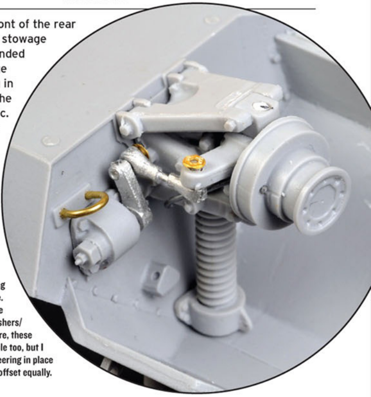
FOOLS RUSH IN…

With all the suspension units safely in place, it was time to deal with the exterior of the lower body.

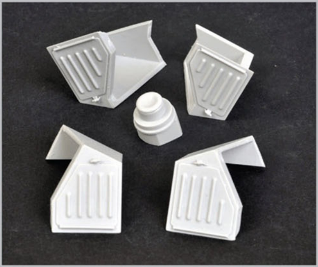
The mudguards are cast as part of the lower body but the distinctive stowage boxes are separate. The patterns of these boxes vary between different models, so this may be a clue that we will see more versions of the Ferret from KFS in the future.

I charged right in and glued the four wing stowage bins to the front and rear mudguards, then secured the inner and outer halves of the main stowage bin. When I checked the main stowage bin for fit against the right hull side, there were a couple of gaps along the side and the front of the main bin that did not line up perfectly with the wing stowage boxes.

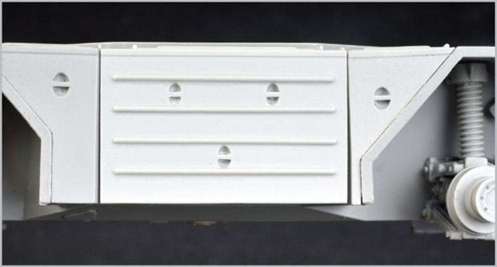
After giving the matter some thought I glued a few spacers cut from scrap plastic onto the front mudguard and the side of the lower hull. These fixed the alignment problem. I then glued a thin strip of plastic to the front of the rear right-hand wing stowage bin. This was sanded into a thin wedge profile, blending in to the resin at the top of the plastic. The thin wedge addressed the gaps at the side of the main bin. ▶



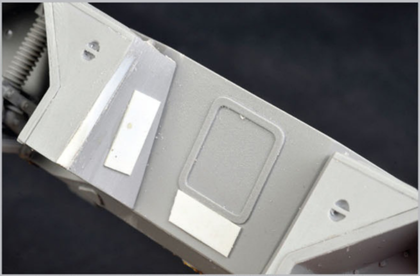
The cast metal steering parts are in place here. These are held in place with photo-etched washers/nuts. With extreme care, these could be made workable too, but I decided to glue the steering in place with the front wheels offset equally.



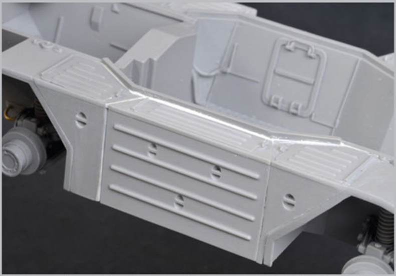
The mudguard stowage bins are provided in one piece each with minimal cleanup required. The object in the middle is the spare wheel mount.



Test-fitting the right side main stowage bin showed some misalignment and gaps. In retrospect, I should have tried to line up all three right-side bins before gluing any of them in place.



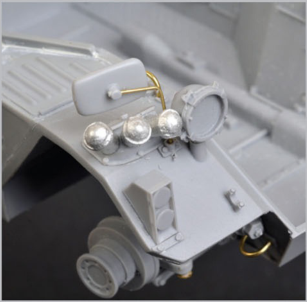
Spacers from plastic scrap were glued to the right side of the body and the rear mudguard. A thin wedge of plastic – sanded to shape after it was glued to the rear wing bin – fixed the gap at the rear side of the bin.



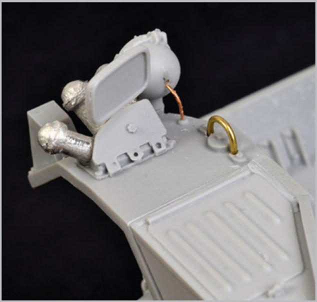
The fit was much improved after these simple adjustments. A gap at the back of the bins was filled with White Milliput two-part epoxy putty.

The smoke dischargers are handed left and right. I found that the metal pots fitted better after the existing locating holes were drilled a little wider.

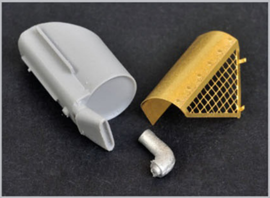
The bases of the headlights were cut off, drilled out and reinforced with 1mm brass rod, also supplied with the kit.



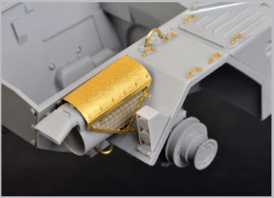
The mounts for the rear vision mirrors are fabricated from 0.5mm brass wire.



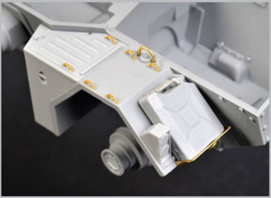
A view from the rear of the left hand mudguard cluster. Note the electrical lead-in for the headlight cut from copper wire, and the brass lifting ring over the shock absorber. This was bent into shape using the same techniques as the tie-downs.



The muffler is a genuine multi-media assembly made up from resin, photo-etch and white metal. The photo-etched guard was bent into shape with the help of a Mission Models Multi-Tool.



The muffler assembly in place. Note the thoroughly three-dimensional photo-etched tie-downs on the top of the mudguard and the stowage box.



The jerry can is a tight fit on the left rear mudguard but don't worry, it fits! Don't forget to add the white metal handle to the resin can.

◀ With the benefit of hindsight, I should have considered all three stowage bins on the right side of the vehicle as a single sub-assembly, and test fitted the three of them together before committing to glue. Also, in future, I would not use the inner section of the main stowage bin at all (marked Part 11 in the instructions). Instead, I would only use the outer section (part 12), then cut a piece of thin plastic to form the floor of the bin after all the stowage parts were lined up and glued in place.

The lower hull detail parts were added now. I was a bit concerned about adding some of these relatively fine parts so early in the proceedings, but they are all solidly fixed to the fenders. Those parts that might have been vulnerable as resin alone have been drilled and pinned with brass wire. The mounts for the wing mirrors are bent from 0.5mm brass wire too.

In 1:35 scale, tie downs are usually bumps moulded to plastic surfaces or flat photo-etch, but in 1:24 scale we have proper three-dimensional parts that are folded then glued into place. Twelve down now, lots more to go later!

The exhaust is a genuine multimedia sub-assembly with a resin muffler, photo-etched guard and white metal manifold exhaust pipe. The muffler guard was folded with the aid of my Mission Models Multi-Tool, then secured to the resin part with super glue. ■

NEXT TIME

In the next instalment, Brett will be working on the upper hull and the engine compartment.

Modelspec

Kit Form Services 1:24 scale FV701 Daimler Ferret Mk.2/3. Kit Number Not Quoted

Tools and Accessories Used:

North West Short Line Chopper II
Mission Models Mutli-Tool
Selleys Super Glue
Milliput White
Copper Wire

✓ Amazing detail; highest quality casting; precise fit with useful locating holes; excellent access to interior via poseable or hinged hatches; resin is easy to work with.

✗ Some previous experience working with multimedia kits will be helpful.

Available from

Thanks to Kit Form Services for the sample
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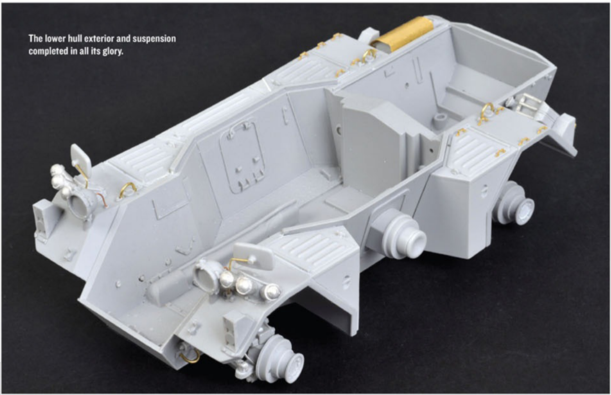
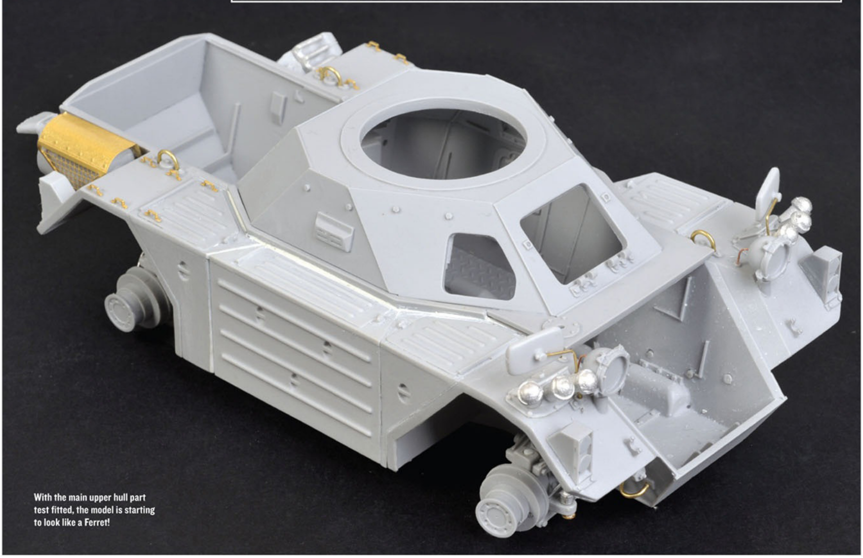


The lower hull exterior and suspension completed in all its glory.



With the main upper hull part test fitted, the model is starting to look like a Ferret!

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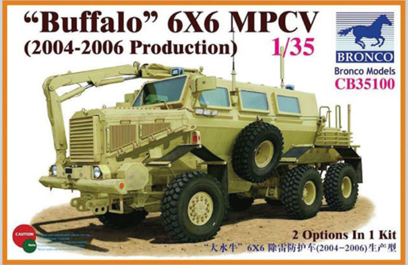

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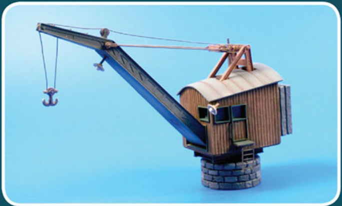

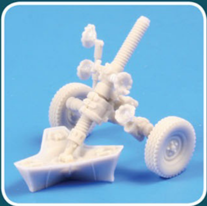

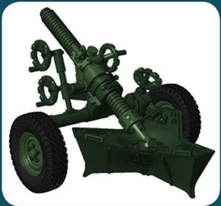

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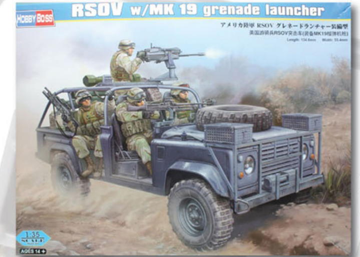

Andy King examines the new 1:35 scale HobbyBoss US Rangers Landrover, the RSOV.

SPEC OPS OFF-ROAD

The Ranger Special Operations Vehicle (RSOV) is a highly modified version of the Landrover Defender 110 (110 denotes the length of the wheelbase) and used primarily by the US Army 75th Ranger Regiment. The vehicle was a replacement for the Ford M151 jeep, which entered service in 1992. In addition to the RSOV, it comes in two other guises; a MEDSOV (Medical Special Operations Vehicle) capable of carrying 6 stretchers for the evacuation of injured troops and the mortar carrying MORTSOV.

A section of two vehicles would have either a M240 machine gun, .50 cal mg and Mk.19 Grenade Launcher mounted plus ammunition and the crew would consist of a driver/ team leader, a truck commander (TC) and a top gunner although up to seven soldiers can be carried depending on mission requirements.

Weighing in at over 7000lbs (3,175 kg) and with a Landrover 300TDi four-cylinder diesel engine, the vehicle can travel up to 200 miles (320 km) plus it is air transportable by CH-47 and MH-53 helicopters.

This Hobbyboss kit is the latest variant in their 1:35 scale Landrover Defender family and contains over 270 parts. There are eight sprues moulded in tan styrene with a single clear sprue for the lights, five vinyl tyres, a fret of brass etch and a small water slide decal sheet.

All parts are very well moulded with little or no flash and pin marks are confined to out of sight areas although there are a few shrink marks on the vehicle floor. The model also features a very detailed engine and chassis.

Weapons included in the kit are the roof-mounted Mk.19 Grenade Launcher, M240 MG and what looks to be Javelin, M72 and AT-4 anti-tank missile launchers, although these are a bit non-descript and aftermarket items would look better. Lots of ammo boxes are provided for the various weapons as well. A 'sand-channel' is provided as stowage above the left rear wheel but from the few pictures I have found on the net there seem to be racks mounted either side of the rear body instead. I also found a top view of the RSOV and the circular gun ring provided in the kit is wider than it is on the actual vehicle, however it would not be a huge job to correct. You will have to source a pair of large bolt cutters as these are missing from the front-right wing. The small boxes on top of the front fenders would look better with the small holes drilled out but no doubt an etch set is in the pipeline somewhere.

The only painting option is for an overall dark grey vehicle with decals for the dashboard instruments and a couple of other small areas.

As I said earlier there are few pictures available of this vehicle obviously due to its clandestine background and mission, and some of the pictures found would indicate that Hobbyboss may have based the kit on an earlier demonstration vehicle but apart from the observations I have made it looks to be a fairly accurate kit and with all that lovely engine detail I quite fancy putting it together now! Recommended! ■

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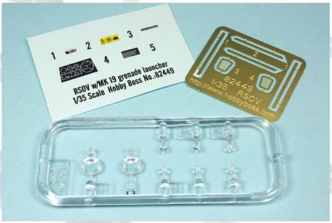
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Decals, photo-etched fret and clear parts.

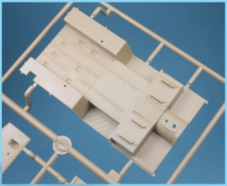
Tyres are provided in black vinyl.

References:

http://articles.janes.com/articles/Janes-Military-Vehicles-and-Logistics/Land-Rover-Defender-Special-Operations-Vehicle-SOV-United-Kingdom.html

http://www3.ausa.org/webint/DeptArmyMagazine.nsf/byid/CCRN-6CCRY7

http://www.warwheels.net/LandyDefenderRSOVIndex.html



The one-piece lower body.

Seat textures are nicely done.

A useful compliment of weapons is included.

Moulded detail is crisp.

The separate bonnet.

Sand rails are supplied.

Water cans are suitably labelled.

35045 1/35 COVENANTER MkI/II/IV
(Contains Options for three different Mks)
Inside the Armour

Inside the Armour fills an important missing link in the line-up of British armoured vehicles with their new 1:35 scale Covenanter.

HOT STUFF

The Covenanter, more formally known as the "Tank, Cruiser, Mk V, Covenanter (A13 Mk III)", filled the British War Office's requirement of an inexpensive and lightweight Cruiser tank armed with a 2 pdr anti-tank gun and with 30mm armour. The Covenanter's design stipulated the installation of a horizontally opposed 12-cylinder engine, but this required the radiator to be fitted on the upper front hull. This peculiar arrangement led to many complications mechanical problems, including overheating of the engine and the fighting compartment.

As a result, the Covenanter was destined to fulfil a UK-based training role for newly formed British and Polish armoured units. The Covenanter was neer deployed operationally. Despite its chronic ongoing mechanical problems and design shortcomings, more than 1,700 Covenanters were eventually manufactured. By 1943, the Covenanter was declared obsolete and all remaining examples were ordered to be scrapped.

Inside the Armour is a relatively new model company that has been clearly focused on conversions, update sets and accessories for WWII British tanks.

Inside the Armour's 1:35 scale Covenanter comprises more than 200 parts in pale grey resin, turned metal barrels for the QF 2 pdr main gun and the co-axial Besa machine gun, and instructions on disk. This is, in fact, an authorised upgraded version of the resin kit previously released by Cromwell models.

The resin is well cast. Many parts are surrounded by feather-like resin flash, but this will be quickly removed with a sharp blade and/or a stiff brush. Casting blocks generally do not look too daunting. If you don't like working with fiddly photo-etched parts, then you're in luck. There are none supplied in this kit, but I think the resin is more than sufficient in terms of detail

Inside the Armour lives up to its name by providing a partial interior including the turret basket and spare ammunition stowage. The driver's compartment and turret will look suitably busy through open hatches straight from the box.

The hull is presented as a single large casting with a separate floor. Rivet detail (both on the hull and elsewhere) is even and impressive. Any of the smaller raised details are cast onto the turret and hull, reducing the number of parts required.

The turret comes split into upper and lower halves, with some of the interior detail already cast into place. Two large locating pins will ensure correct alignment and positive fit.

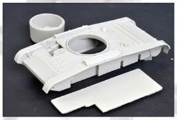
The tracks are supplied as resin lengths. Individual links are provided for wrapping around the drive sprockets and idler wheels.

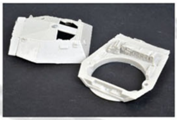
The turned metal gun barrels are lovely, and will look great in the resin mantlet.

Enough alternative parts are included to build a Mk.I, a Mk.II or a Mk.IV Covenanter. The instructions clearly state which parts are for what variant.

Inside the Armour's 1:35 scale Covenanter is an impressive model that fills an important gap in the lineup of British tanks. I can't wait to start building mine! ■

Thanks to Inside the Armour for the sample
www.insidethearmour.com


The impressive one-piece hull casting with the separate floor and turret bustle.


The turret halves.

Casting quality is good.

The casting blocks should be fairly straightforward to remove.

Tracks are supplied as resin lengths.

The turned brass gun barrels.

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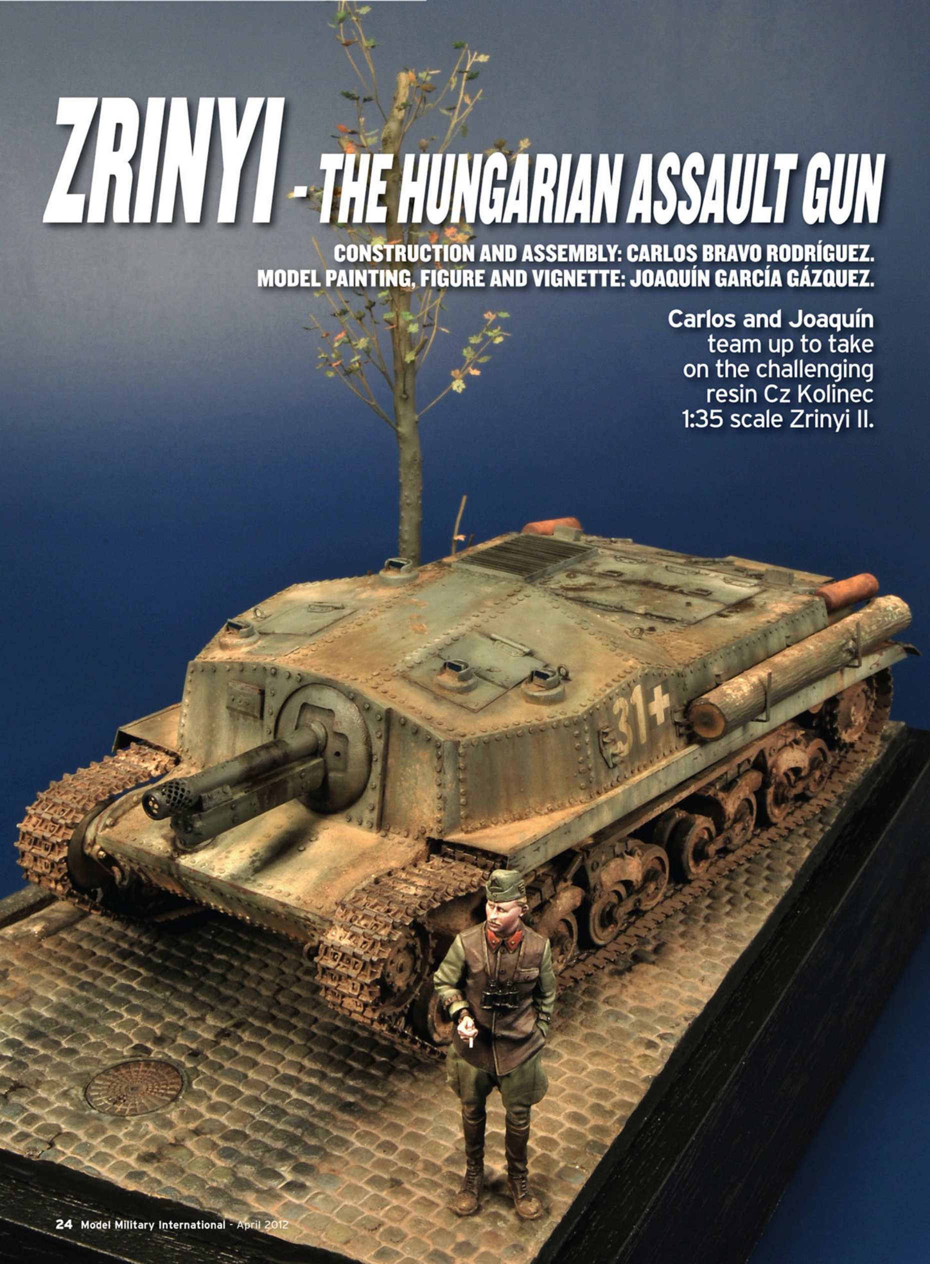
ZRINYI - THE HUNGARIAN ASSAULT GUN

CONSTRUCTION AND ASSEMBLY: CARLOS BRAVO RODRÍGUEZ.
MODEL PAINTING, FIGURE AND VIGNETTE: JOAQUÍN GARCÍA GÁZQUEZ.

Carlos and Joaquín team up to take on the challenging resin Cz Kolinec 1:35 scale Zrinyi II.



After noting the success of German and Russian self-propelled assault guns including the Sturmgeschutz and SU families, Hungary developed its own assault gun based on the chassis of the Turan medium tank. Two models were made - the Zrinyi I 44M, armed with the 43M 75 mm gun, which did not go along the initial prototype and on the other, the Zrinyi II armed with the 40M 105mm L/20 howitzer.

The conventional assault gun design was employed in anti-tank missions. Between 40 and 66 Zrinyi II were built from August 1943 until July 1944.

Today, there is only one left, which may be found in the Kubinka military museum near Moscow.

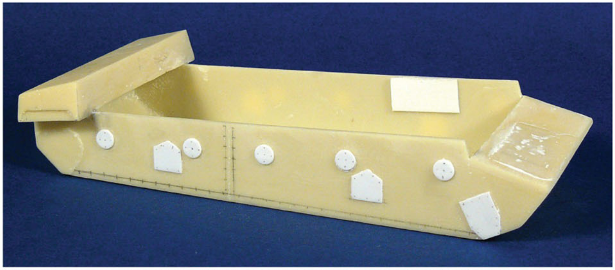
CONSTRUCTION

BY CARLOS BRAVO RODRÍGUEZ

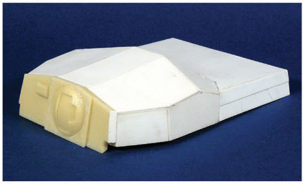
Once more I find myself with a Cz Kolinec model. I had previously made a Turan II. This company offers rare but very attractive and unusual models, although you will need to be patient and brave to succeed with them.

After analyzing the kit, I have only used the lower hull and the superstructure, removing every detail. That means that it was only useful to take a reference.

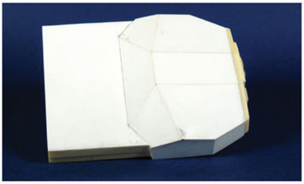
To make this model, it was really useful to consult the book Magyar Steel, from Mushroom Model Magazine's editorial, from which I obtained excellent scale 1:35 plans. On the other hand, it was very helpful to observe and study as many pictures from different books and websites as I could find.



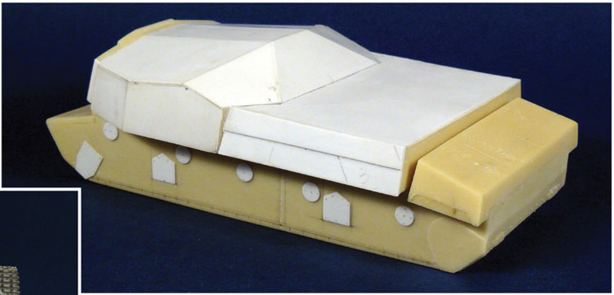
Once the chassis components and the superstructure were prepared, I scratch built some elements of the lower hull from 0.5mm plastic sheet, where the bogies will be placed. I also marked the points where the numerous rivets of this tank will be placed with a graph ruler and a compass needle.



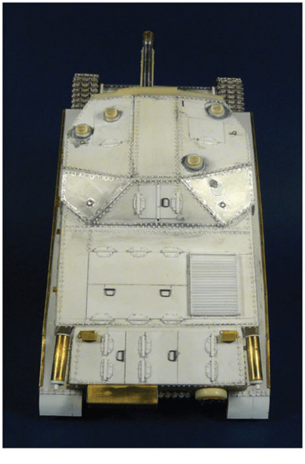
The most complex job was to correct the shape of the superstructure, as it was warped and twisted.



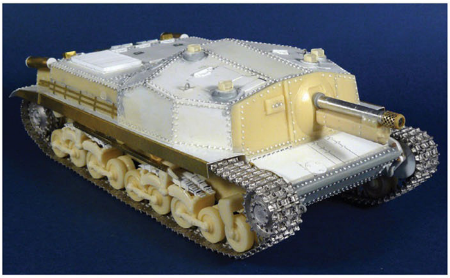
Before re-skinning the superstructure with plasticard, I had to fill it with putty made from talcum powder and super glue.



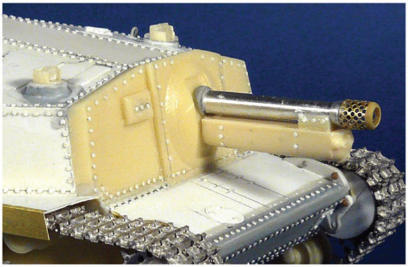
The next step was to join both halves, checking once more the awful fit between the the pieces of this model. To correct everything, it is essential to use plasticard of different thickness (2mm for the rear part and 0.5mm and 0.25mm in many front areas of the hull), as well as a large amount of putty, adjusting the parts and their dimensions according to scale plans.



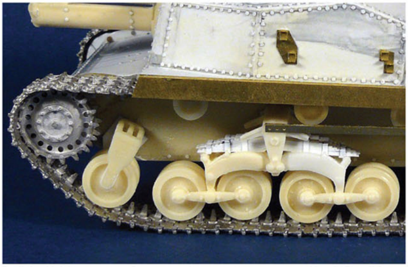
At this point, the most difficult surgery is already done. Now we start adding easy to build details, such as the engine hatches, ventilation grilles and the fighting compartment access. Periscopes are made with different thickness plasticard, as well as the exhaust pipes for which I used metal tube.



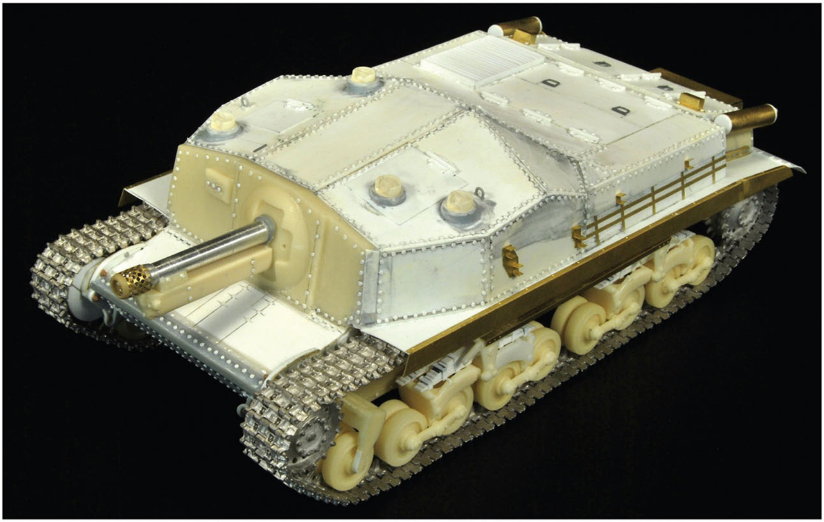
Next, I glued the rivets that cover the vehicle, around 400 in total distributed on the upper hull and superstructure.



I scratch built a cradle for the gun where the plasticard rests, then made a resin copy of this original piece. The gun itself was built out of Jordi Rubio's Wespe barrel. The distinctive muzzle brake was made from the remnants of different photo etched sets and other plastic pieces.



Finally I tackled the running gear. Bearing in mind my previous experience assembling the Turan II, I decided to make the different pieces of the bogie using plasticard,. Once these were done, I made resin copies, so that it was faster to assemble. Lastly, I made the springs with 1mm thickness per 0,5mm width plasticard, gluing them to the bogies' arms.



Due to the fact that both the drive and the idler wheels (fortunately included in the Friul's track set for this tank) had problems, I had no other choice than to fix them. I decided to assemble and glue the tracks too, so that they were easier to be painted afterwards.

This tough, stocky tank possesses lines that reminds me of a cross between a StuG III and an Italian self-propelled gun. Although it might seem to be a big tank in these photos, its size is actually about the same as a Panzer III or a StuG III .

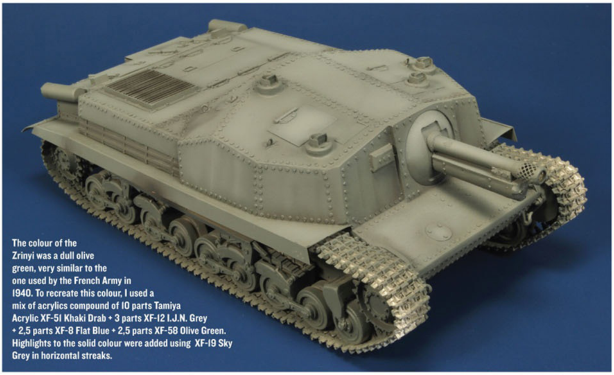
Although it was a complex, difficult and sometimes frustrating construction process, I really enjoyed the year that it took me to finish the Zrinyi. I had to consult and observe many reference photos that have provided me with a lot of information regarding other Hungarian tanks that might become future projects.

PAINTING

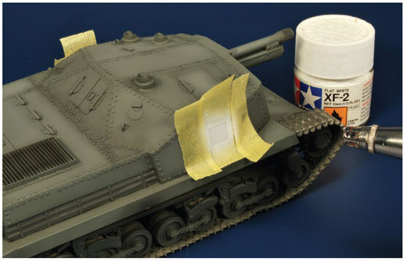
BY JOAQUÍN GARCÍA GÁZQUEZ

The Zrinyi is a tank that I really like and that I always wanted to have. Unfortunately the mainstream plastic companies do not often pay attention to these types of tanks so the only choices left are resin cottage indusrty options. My reluctance to build this type of kit made me indefinitely postpone its construction, however when I knew that Carlos was building one, I offered to paint his model. I am very grateful that he accepted, so I publicly thank him for that.

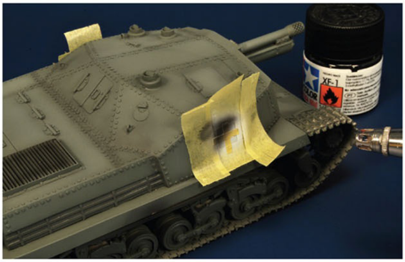
Now I will describe how I painted both the model and the simple vignette.



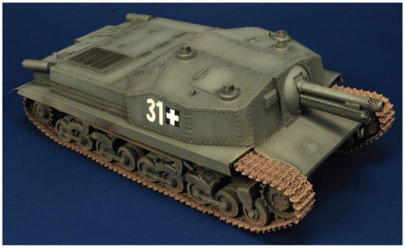
The colour of the Zrinyi was a dull olive green, very similar to the one used by the French Army in 1940. To recreate this colour, I used a mix of acrylics compound of 10 parts Tamiya Acrylic XF-51 Khaki Drab + 3 parts XF-12 I.J.N. Grey + 2,5 parts XF-8 Flat Blue + 2,5 parts XF-58 Olive Green. Highlights to the solid colour were added using XF-19 Sky Grey in horizontal streaks.



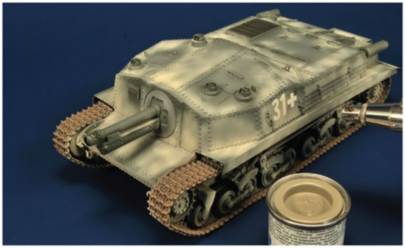
For the Hungarian badge I prepared a simple stencil, starting spraying with the white colour.



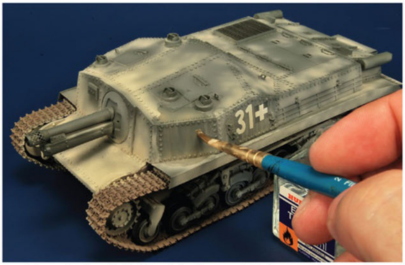
Next, I masked the black cross and sprayed it with the airbrush.



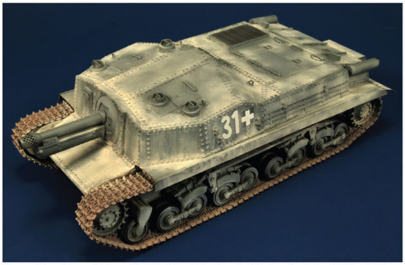
To finish the markings, I place the numerals, coming from my personal decal spares box and settled down with Micro liquids. Once dried, I airbrushed a delicate shadow with heavily diluted XF-1 Flat Black + XF-10 Flat Brown. I finished up with a coat of Micro gloss varnish.



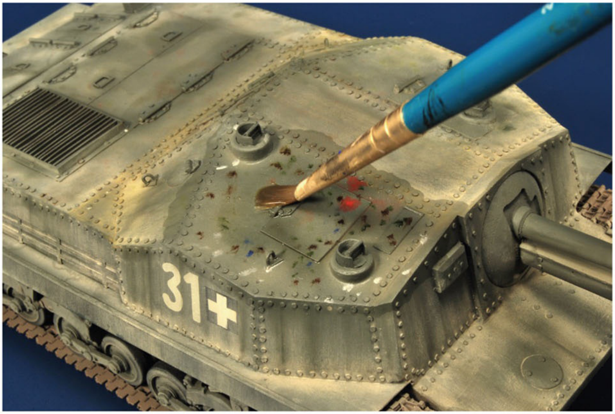
Once dried, I start the weathering process by airbrushing Humbrol 72 enamel...



... partially removing the paint with thinners before it was completely dry, representing wear and tear and accumulated dirt.



The result is an intense dirtiness, ideal for this vehicle where flat sheet predominates. At this point the finish shown is flat, dull and dying.



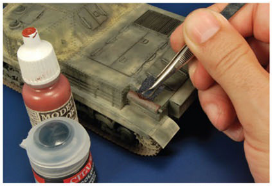
I needed to add life to the dull finish. To lighten up the surfaces and offer with a tonal variety I use oil paints, preparing two palettes with cardboard. I try to distinguish the oil paint from the pigmented parts and the base colour.
I use the following oil paints on the areas with pigment weathering:

- Yellow Ochre 88 (T)
- Naples Light Yellow 222 (VG)
- Yellow Ochre 227 (R)
- Gold Ochre 231 (R)
- Mars Violet 157 (WN)
- Titan Grey 79 (T)

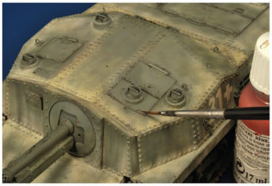
For the base colour:

- Natural Siena Earth 34 (WN)
- Van Dick Grey-Brown 41 (WN)
- Olive Green 73 (T)
- Sepia 416 (R)
- Light Azul Ultramarine 54 (T)
- Transparent Green Yellow 281 (R)
- Olive Green 620 (VG)
- Rust Black 735 (R)
- Natural Shadow Earth 74)

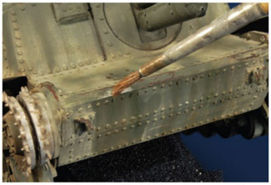
The result is a slight improvement, but the painting process must go on.



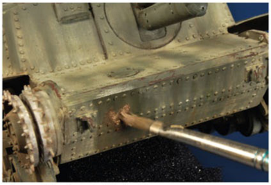
Next are the chips. In the most angled areas it is very useful to adopt the sponge technique, using it as an ink pad. In this case I am concentrating on the muffler.



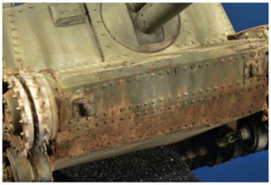
In other areas such as the edges of hatches, mudguards etc, we use the paintbrush. I recommend being sparing when applying the paint for chipping. For the deeper chips I use Vallejo Acrylic Red Brown 982 plus Citadel Black. For the greens, Vallejo Olive Grey 888.



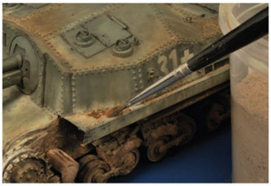
To simulate mud and stuck earth, I start by wetting an area with diluted in Humbrol Enamel Thinners...



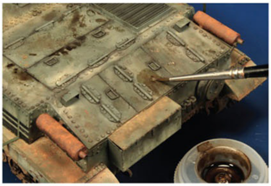
...then applying pigments with a brush.



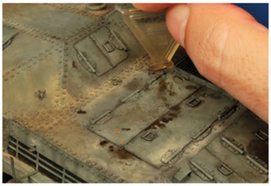
A variety of tones and layers may be applied over the first.



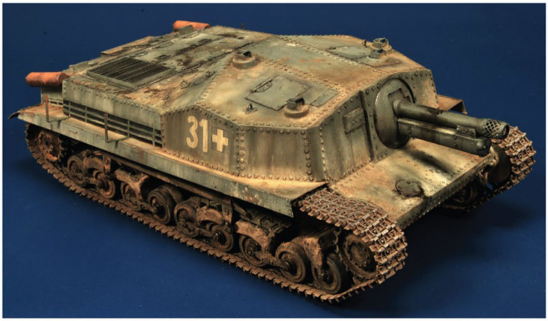
On horizontal surfaces, we first apply powder pigments, mixed into various shades before firmly fixing them with diluted oil paint.



Oil stains are simulated with Titan Asphalt oil painting. By varying the dilution we obtain brighter or glossier stains that imitate recent or dry grease.



An easy to imitate trampled dirt is Caliber 35 boots, carefully applied in high traffic areas.



These are the techniques used to emphasise the diverse areas and changing pigments of the vehicle. The basic paint job is now complete.

To finish the model, I decided to place tree trunks on each side of the superstructure. These personalise the model and will cover the horrible grilles of the Cz Kolinec kit. The branches are natural, I do not know their species or variety, I chose them by their texture, which were perfect for this scale. I started by priming with black Citadel spray.

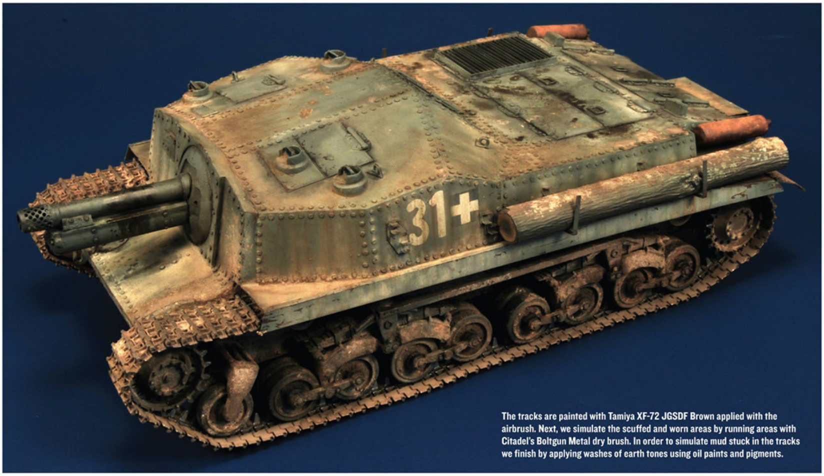
Next, it is painted with Tamiya XF-72 "JGSDF Brown".

With a paintbrush we paint grains with Vallejo acrylic Old Wood 319, Deck Tan 986 and Matt Brown 984.

Several layers of wash using Citadel's black acrylic ink integrate all the grains and darken the natural turns and bends of the branch. We also airbrush some areas with Tamiya XF-62 Olive Drab.

The moss is simulated by painting small stains with Vallejo's acrylic 830 German Field Grey and Italian Tank Light 331, and airbrushing heavily diluted Tamiya XF-5 Flat Green too.

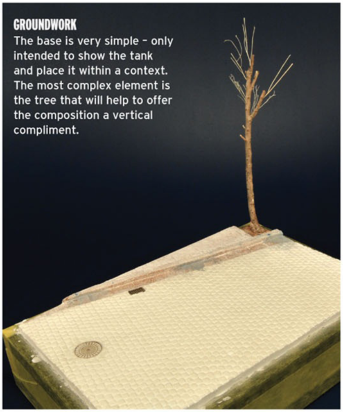
Once the trunks have been placed on the vehicle, the previously described weathering with pigments is applied to integrate the timber with the vehicle.



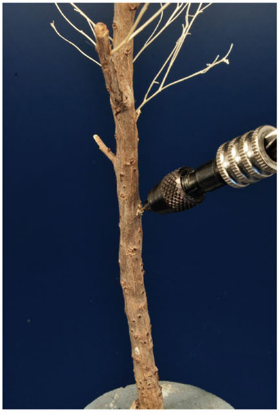
The tracks are painted with Tamiya XF-72 JGSDF Brown applied with the airbrush. Next, we simulate the scuffed and worn areas by running areas with Citadel's Boltgun Metal dry brush. In order to simulate mud stuck in the tracks we finish by applying washes of earth tones using oil paints and pigments.

GROUNDWORK

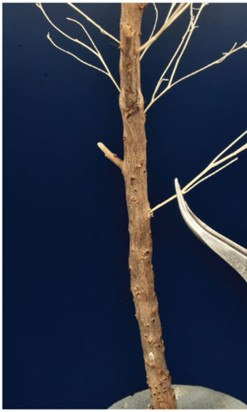
The base is very simple – only intended to show the tank and place it within a context. The most complex element is the tree that will help to offer the composition a vertical compliment.



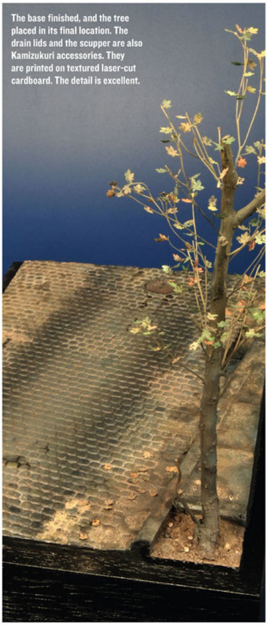
On a moulding acquired in an art shop, I placed a sheet of plaster of Paris cobblestone on a picture frame with the pavement placed in the corner. I also left space for the real feature of the base – the tree.



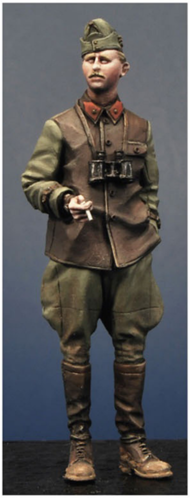
The trunk consists on a branch that I picked up walking in the country, impressed by its shape and texture, I drilled holes...



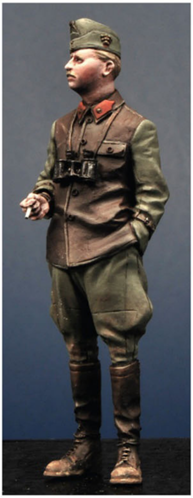
...where I placed small branches acquired in a flower shop. These were fixed with super glue gel, which refills the remaining hollows and avoids the need of putty to seal the gaps. This way, it is ready to be painted straight away.



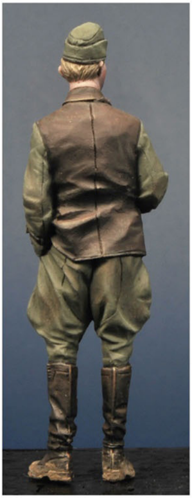
The base finished, and the tree placed in its final location. The drain lids and the scupper are also Kamizukuri accessories. They are printed on textured laser-cut cardboard. The detail is excellent.



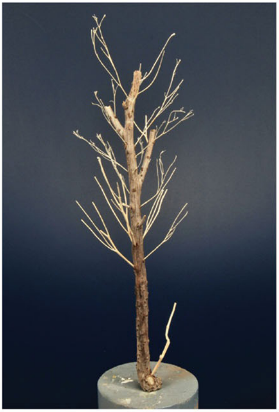
The figure is "The Bodi" Item No. 35014 "Hungarian Panzer Officer". In my opinion it is excellent with a natural pose and a high quality finish. It took me a few minutes to get it ready for painting.



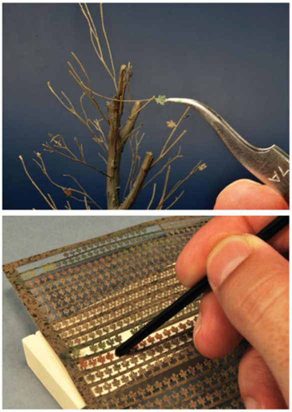
The figure is primed with Tamiya's XF-1 Flat Black, because the leather parts are going to be painted with the airbrush. The long shirt's base colour consists of a mixture of Vallejo's acrylics Bright Black 861 and Leather Brown 940. Highlights are done by thinning the base colour down with more Leather Brown 940 and Golden Flesh and then with Intense Orange 851 and Golden Flesh 845. It is important to paint fewer surfaces each time, creating colour transitions. Afterwards, mixing Matt Black 950 + Bright 861 we shadow it all from the down side up, to reinforce the shadows. We finish with the paint brush, emphasising the previously applied highlights by mixing Bright Black 861 with Golden Flesh 845 and Intense Orange 851. With the same mixture of blacks the shadows are shaped and reinforced. To finish the skin, we apply filters with sepia ink and paint spots with Orange 956 and Golden Flesh 845 to imitate worn outs and damages in the garment.



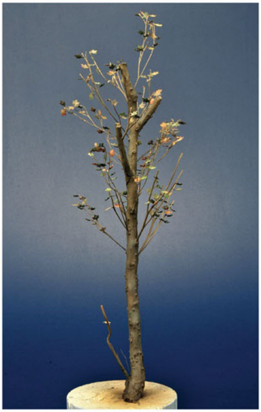
The trousers and the sleeves are painted with a paintbrush in Khaki Green. The shade is obtained from a plate of the book Osprey "Men-at-Arms 449; The Royal Hungarian Army in World War II". The base colour is got by mixing 4p. of German Grey 830, 4 p. of Russian Unif. 924, 1 p. English Unif. 921 and 1 p. Olive Green 967, adding the mixture with a bit of Tamiya's Flat Base X-21, to avoid undesirable bright.



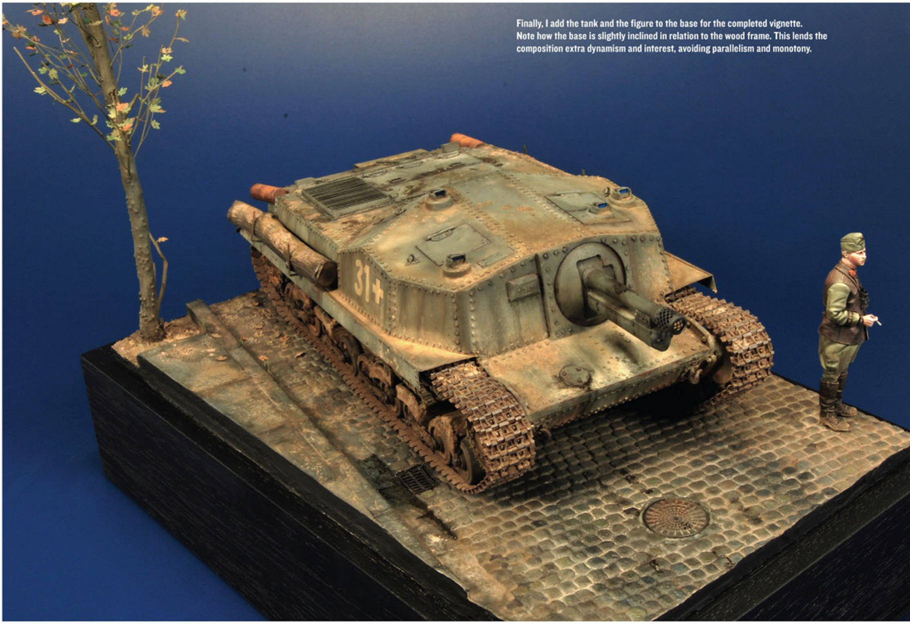
I started painting with Tamiya XF-49 Khaki applied with the airbrush. We work in some zones with a mixture of XF-62 Olive Drab and XF-52 Flat Earth, finishing with washes of natural shadow oil paintings and black Citadel ink, intensifying in the lower areas.



For the leaves, I used Kamizukuri pre-painted laser-cut, "B-4 1:35 Autumun Leaves (MAPLE) brown".
I recommend to slightly bending them to show naturalness, which is easy to do using the back part of a paint brush on a rubber, then, patiently glue them one by one with gel cyanoacrylate.



After a whole evening sticking leaves, this is the result.



Finally, I add the tank and the figure to the base for the completed vignette. Note how the base is slightly inclined in relation to the wood frame. This lends the composition extra dynamism and interest, avoiding parallelism and monotony.

The water appearing next to the drain is made by mixing Tamiya's Smoke with "alkyl" white glue.

Leaves have been scattered on the ground to connect the different elements that make up the vignette.

Modelspec

Cz Kolinec 1:35 scale Zrinyi II **Kit No. CZK-35008**

Accessories Used:

- Various branches from the ground
- "The Bodi" Item No. 35014 "Hungarian Panzer Officer"
- Kamizukuri pre-painted laser-cut, "B-4 1:35 Autumun Leaves (MAPLE) brown"
- Caliber 35 boots

Paints and Finishing Products;

- Tamiya Acrylics
- Vallejo Acrylics
- Humbrol Enamels
- Humbrol Enamel Thinners

✓ Interesting subject.

✗ Poor fit; some shape and detail problems; difficult to build.

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Rating ●●●●●●○○○○

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OPERATION BAG

THE END OF ARMY GROU

José Brito adds MiniArt's 1:35 scale Valentine Mk.IV and a set of figures to a base depicting a dramatic scene from an epic battle on the Eastern Front.

RATION
UP CENTRE

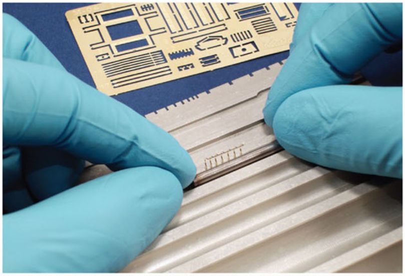
On 22 June 1944, three years after the German invasion of The USSR, the Red Army launched a major offensive in Belarus. Five weeks later, the Red Army reached the outskirts of Warsaw and the Wehrmacht Army Group Centre was defeated.

17 divisions were completely destroyed and 50 shattered.

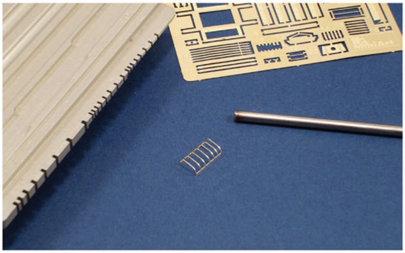
THE MINIART VALENTINE MK.IV IN 1:35

Like most of MiniArt's kits, their new Valentine Mk.IV is a fine model and can be transformed into a very nice replica.

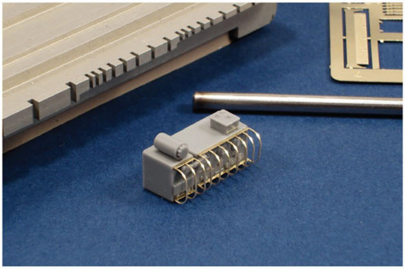
As usual, MiniArt provides attractive box art. Inside the box we have all we need to make a very well detailed model. The plastic is top quality and the surface detail is ultra-fine. There is also a small photo-etched fret, crisply printed decals, individual plastic track links, four crew figures and clear instructions. The decal sheet provides decals for six different tanks. So, we can say that all we need is inside the box. Is that so? Let's see in this article. ▶



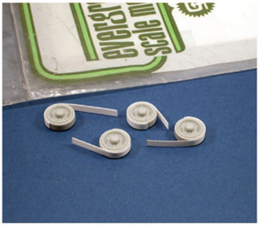
Specific tools are very helpful when working with photo-etched parts. This rolling jig is from The Small Shop.



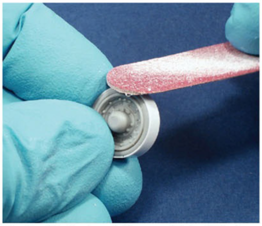
The fine photo-etched parts deliver results that simply are not possible in injection moulded plastic.



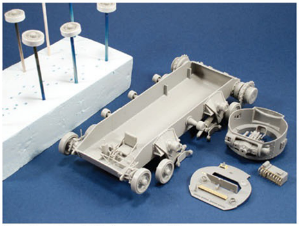
The radio grille in place.



The tyres were skinned with plastic strip to increase their diameter and reduce the space between the road wheels.



The edges of the Evergreen plastic were sanded down to blend with the kit tyres.



Assembly progressed without any major problems.

CONSTRUCTION

Some reference photos have sparked an online controversy about the space between the MiniArt Valentine road wheels no being correct. In my opinion, once the model is finished this space will not be very obvious, but even so I decided not to take the chance and corrected this issue. In fact, this is very simple to fix and in about two hours the problem is solved. All we need to do is glue very thin plastic strip over the rubber part of the wheel then gently sand it to get the correct shape. Let's see if, in the end, this extra work will make a noticeable difference.

The kit plastic detail is very nice but some parts are impossible to reproduce in plastic at this moment and with the current technology. This is why we need photo-etched parts. The kit provides a very nice and diversified photo-etched fret. MiniArt did a great job here and the fret includes parts for the entire model.

The parts must be carefully cut with the help of a brand new blade. The cut must be made in the marked spots and once the part cut from the fret, we must check that it is completely flat and whether it is necessary to sand any rough edges around the cut.

Specific tools like the photo-etch working stations from Small Shop Tools are very useful when working with PE parts. We might be able to achieve the same results with electrical pliers, but if you want the best results and if you are regular modeller, then this is a great investment. Tools like this allow you to bend photo-etch into a wide variety of shapes and the results are always great.

Friulmodel tracks, are they really necessary? In my opinion, yes!

The individual track links provided by MiniArt are accurate and well detailed but they are no match for the Friulmodel tracks. With Friulmodel tracks we can achieve natural sag. How? Because we have something called gravity. All we have to do is place the assembled metal tracks on the model and let gravity do the rest. The final result is lovely and ultra realistic.

Assembling the Friulmodel tracks is a time consuming process. All the links must be individually prepared for assembly. Personally I like to drill all the holes where the metal pin will be introduced.

Several links are assembled in small sections and the metal pins are introduced in the appropriate spots (just like real life in 1:1 tracks). Once all the segments are connected, all we have to do is apply small drops of glue to keep everything in place. In this case I used Deluxe Materials' Rocket Hot Glue. Being a very thin and strong super glue, it is ideal to use as capillary and reach the most difficult spots.

With the help of a nail cutter, all we have to do is cut the excess off the metal pin.

The metal tracks really improve the model's final look. Besides, they look very accurate with their natural sag.

It is possible to see that the photo-etched fret provided by MiniArt covers the entire model and every detail was considered. I scratch built a new exhaust pipe and used the metal tow cables from RMG Resin Models from Portugal. The metal antenna is an item from SKP.

Can you spot the space between the wheels? Was it worth the extra work? I will let the readers judge this.

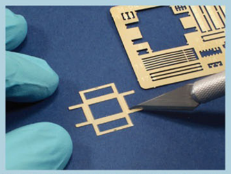
Once the model is assembled, it is possible to see how the several materials, combined, really improve the model. Besides the materials described before, we can see the fine wires from Plus Model, the scratch built exhaust cover made from lead foil and damaged with the help of a scalpel blade, the lead foil in the iron cables and the spare tracks. All of these combine to achieve and extra touch of realism and to make a unique model.

ZENITH TRANSFORMATION

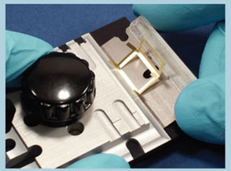
The entire model was prepared with an airbrushed coat of Vallejo Surface Primer 73609 Russian Green. Vallejo primers dry very fast and turn the surface very smooth, ideal for airbrushing. They must be airbrushed in several layers in order to keep the surface detail.

The model was airbrushed in several subassemblies so all the interior parts must be protected. We can use a wide variety of materials like masking tape, tissue paper or liquid masks.

Once the primer was completely dry, the model was airbrushed in Vallejo Model Air 71017 Russian Green. Like the primer, this camouflage coat was airbrushed in



MiniArt's photo-etched parts make a big contribution to the interior and exterior of the model.



This little tool is also from The Small Shop. Appropriately, it is called "The Bug"!

Fruil Model metal tracks were used. The holes for the linking wires were drilled out before assembly.

The wires are carefully secured with super glue. With sufficient care, the links will remain workable.

The excess wire is cut off. Voila! Real metal tracks!

several layers in order to keep the surface detail.

To achieve variation in tone of the base colour, the model was next airbrushed in Vallejo Model Air 71017 Russian Green and Vallejo Model Air 71010 Interior Green. I call this "zenith transformation". I do not like the Colour Modulation approach. In my opinion the zenith transformation approach turns the model much more interesting and represents much better the natural or solar illumination.

I used four colours to achieve the Zenith Transformation in this model. It was first airbrushed in Vallejo Model Air 71017 Russian Green, then in Vallejo Model Air 71010 Interior Green. Once dry, it was airbrushed in Vallejo Model Air 71009 Duck Egg Green and as the last step, the model was softened with a very thin coat of Vallejo Model Air 71010 Interior Green.

The model looks quite different when compared with Colour Modulation. I think that the Zenith Transformation technique is less obvious than the Colour Modulation technique.

WEATHERING AND FINISHING

Now it was time for weathering and finishing.

By the time Operation Bagration started, the Valentine tank was already obsolete and used only to support the infantry. I therefore wanted to represent a tank with some battle scars and a war-weary appearance.

The weathering started by applying thousands of small scratches. The process got underway with the help of a small sponge and ended with help of a very fine brand new brush. Several colours were used in order to achieve a more realistic look.

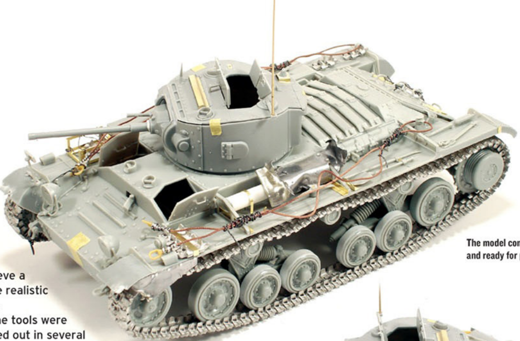
The tools were picked out in several Vallejo Model Colour colours. Small self-adhesive Post-It Notes were placed between the tools and the model. Using these, we can paint the specific detail parts and not overpaint the model surface.

The exhaust pipe was earlier painted in Vallejo Model Colour 985 Hull Red and now received a coat of Vallejo Pigments 73108 Brown Iron Oxide.

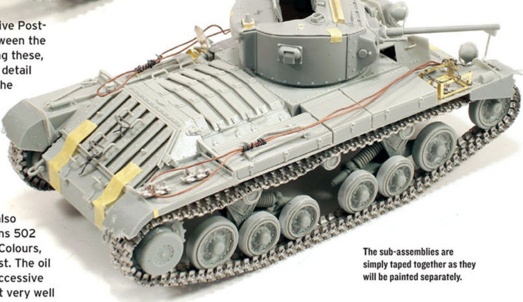
The wood parts were also painted in MIG Productions 502 Abteilung Modelling Oils Colours, in this case 070 Dark Rust. The oil colour was brushed in successive layers. This will represent very well the wood pattern.

With all the wash work well dry, several Vallejo pigment colours were applied in order to acheive dusty look. In this case they were applied in the "dry method". The "dry method" means that they are applied directly from the jar and then they will later be fixed in place.

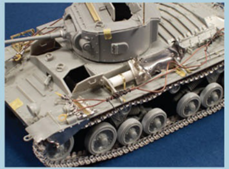
The pigments were fixed in place with Winsor & Newton Artists' White Spirit. All we have to do is apply several ▶



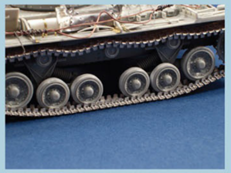
The model completed and ready for paint.



The sub-assemblies are simply taped together as they will be painted separately.



The jumble of tow cable is from RMG Resin Models of Portugal.



The natural sag of the real metal tracks looks fantastic.

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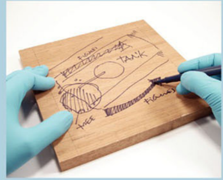
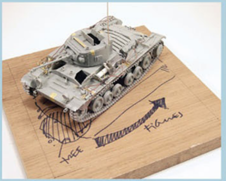
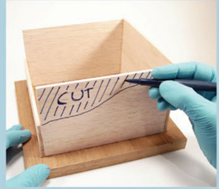

FIGURES
TANK
TREE
FIGURES

The base was prepared by drawing the elements onto the wooden surface.


TREE
FIGURES

Even before painting, the model is placed on the base to test the effect.



Now it is time to build the base. The sides are built up from balsa wood. The areas to be cut away have been clearly marked.

FIGURES
TANK

The angles of the base will lend interest and variety to the final scene.

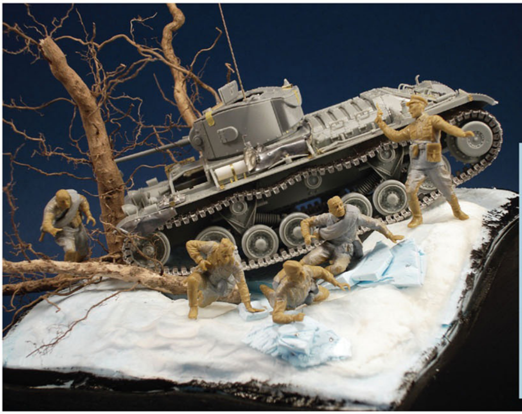
The interior was filled with heat isolation foam used in civil construction.

The tree was made from a spring green root.

Holes were drilled into the root using a fine pin vise.

DELUXE
ROKET
RAPID

Several small branches were added to add bulk to the tree.



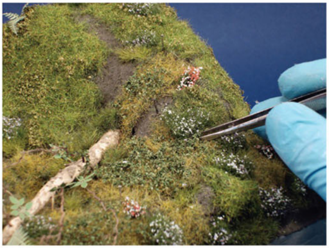
With the main elements basically complete, they were once again tested on the base.

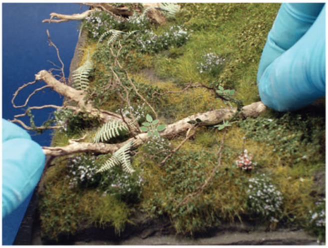
DARK EARTH
26.218

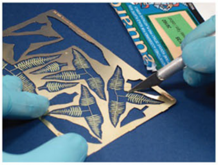
The foam was covered in Vallejo Dark Earth 26218 paste.

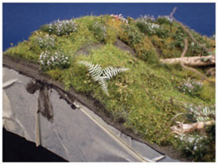
A number of foliage products were used, including Eduard's new range of leaves and ferns.

MiniNatur's "Pasture with Flowers" sheet was also used on the base.


The MiniNatur sheet is easy to use and looks very realistic.


A branch has been added to the groundwork.


Eduard's pre-coloured photo-etched ferns are cut from their fret with a sharp knife.


The Eduard ferns are bent into a realistic shape and added to the foliage on the base.

Model Scene's Low Weed is made from coloured die-cut paper.

◀ drops over the pigments by brush and allow them to dry, taking care not to touch them during the drying process.

During this process the model will turn very dark and it may seem that the pigments disappear, but once the White Spirit evaporates the pigments will appear again and they will look very natural and realistic.

BASE AND DIORAMA

I am a diorama builder and as usual I did some planning directly over the base. I usually like to draw and define my ideas over the final base and in the first pictures we can see the model facing left, but in the end it will be facing right.

All of my dioramas have bulk, and in my opinion that bulk adds more visual interest to the scene. As usual, I used a square wood base with the sidewalls made from balsa wood. The interior was filled with heat isolation foam used in civil construction. The heat isolation foam is cheap, easy to find and easy to work with. Another advantage is that it is lightweight and ideal to fill large areas. Several layers of white glue were applied in order to give an extreme bond and protect the isolation foam.

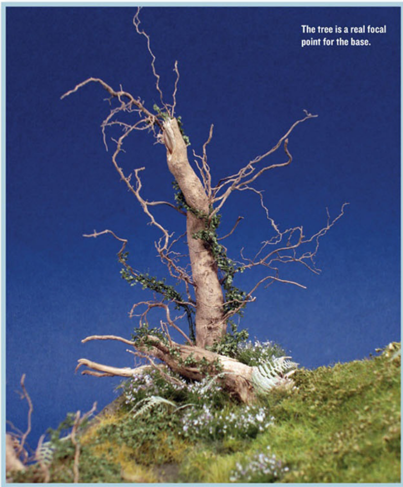
The tree was made from a spring green root. I chose a suitable root for the scale of the trunk and then several holes were opened with the help of a pine vise. Several small branches were added to add volume to the tree.

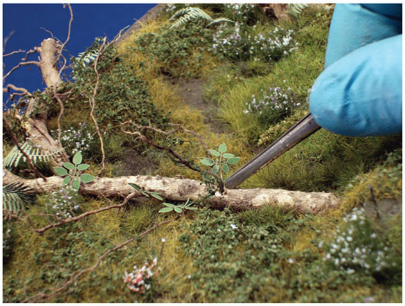
In order to achieve a realistic vegetal final look, products from several companies were used. In this case the products were from MiniNatur, Model Scene and Eduard.

In order to get a realistic finish and before start making the base, we must recreate real nature. We must observe how the vegetation grows and where it grows. This is very important; otherwise our scenario will look like a big salad!

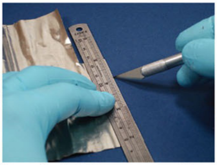
Combining several products allows the modellers to get ultra realistic vegetation and a very convincing scenario.

To represent the terrain, the foam was covered in Vallejo Dark Earth 26218 paste. Vallejo pastes are a coloured, slightly gritty paste of acrylic resin, pigment and micro particles. Applied with a brush or spatula, the product is easily shaped to render a sandy beach, desert dunes, churned up mud terrain of all kinds of conditions. It can be also used for rust and weathered metal textures. It dries in about 30-45 minutes and the ▶

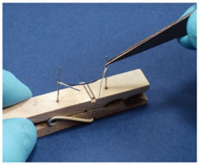

The tree is a real focal point for the base.


These are added as foliage for the trunk.

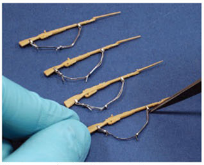
The Soviet helmets are metal items from SKP Model. Full interior detail is provided in photo-etch.



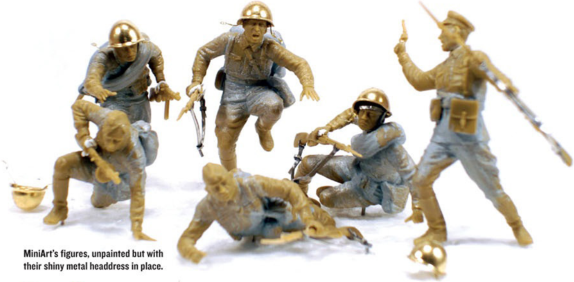
Straps and buckles for the weapons were carefully cut from lead foil.



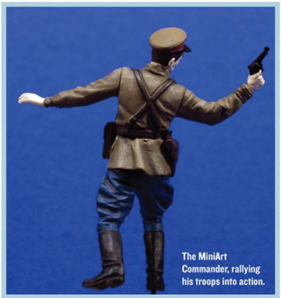
Pins stuck into a peg acted as a jig for the assembly of the scratch-built rifle straps.



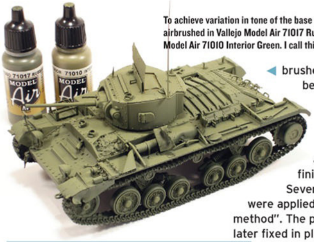
The straps make a big difference to the weapons.



MiniArt's figures, unpainted but with their shiny metal headdress in place.



The MiniArt Commander, rallying his troops into action.



To achieve variation in tone of the base colour, the model was next airbrushed in Vallejo Model Air 71017 Russian Green and Vallejo Model Air 71010 Interior Green. I call this "zenith transformation".

brushes or spatulas can be cleaned with water. The pastes can be mixed with other Vallejo products to achieve all kinds of finish.

Several Vallejo pigments were applied in the "dry method". The pigments were later fixed in place with Winsor & Newton Artists' White Spirit.

Soon, the base was finished and ready to receive the tank and figures. The vegetation looks natural and very convincing.

FIGURES

The figures came all from Master Box. In this case, the figure set was "Counterattack, Soviet Infantry, Summer 1941". The figures have very dynamic poses and nice detail overall.

I decided to replace the helmets with new ones from SKP. The new helmets from SKP are in metal and have full interior in photo-etch.

Another addition to the figures is the scratch built rifle straps and buckles from lead foil. The buckles add an extra touch of realism and movement.

The flesh areas were painted in oils and all the other parts were picked out in Vallejo Model Colour acrylics using a fine brush. The final weathering was achieved in oils and pigments. They are in the middle of the action so must look dirty!

The main elements are posed along invisible diagonal lines. This adds much more dynamism and the appearance of action to the scene.

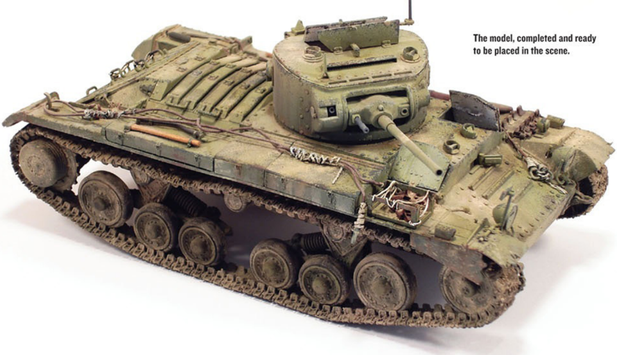
CONCLUSION

MiniArt's 1:35 scale Valentine Mk.IV is a lovely kit that can be transformed into a stunning model even if built straight from the box.

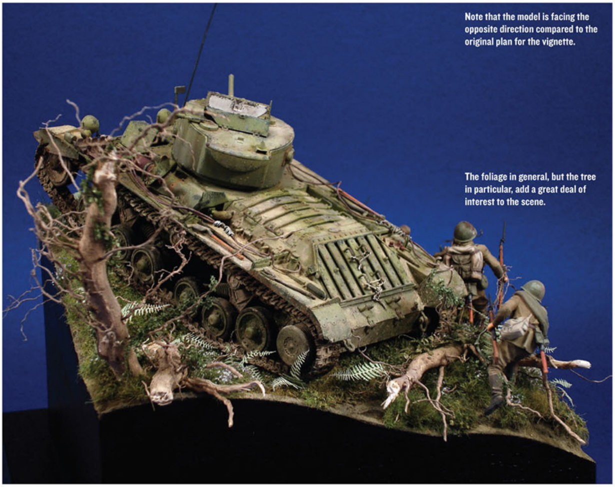
In my opinion, the wheel size/spacing is not a big issue and once the model finished, it will be barely noticeable. I decided to correct the wheels on this model, but next time I build a Valentine from MiniArt, I will not waste my time. ■

Weathering started by applying thousands of small scratches. The process got underway with the help of a small sponge and ended with help of a very fine brand new brush. Several colours were used in order to achieve a more realistic look.

Pigments were fixed in place with Winsor & Newton Artists' White Spirit.



The model, completed and ready to be placed in the scene.



Note that the model is facing the opposite direction compared to the original plan for the vignette.

The foliage in general, but the tree in particular, add a great deal of interest to the scene.

Modelspec

MiniArt 1:35 Valentine Mk.IV Red Army w/crew.
Kit No. 35092

Accessories Used

- 1:35 Master Box, Counterattack, Soviet Infantry, Summer 1941, Item MB3563
- 1:35 SKP, Soviet Helmets, Item SKP077
- 1:35 Friulmodel, Valentine/Bishop, Item ATL-32
- 1:35 RMG Resin Models (several items)
- MiniNatur (several items)
- Model Scene (several items)
- 1:35 Eduard, Leaves Fern/Colour, Item 36160

Materials and Paints Used

- Hood glue
- Deluxe Materials glue solutions
- Heat isolation foam
- Wood base
- Injected plastic
- Resin parts
- Plastic card
- Metal parts
- Vallejo primers, acrylics, washes, pigments, pastes and thinners
- MIG Productions oils, washes, filters and thinners
- Winsor & Newton oil colours and thinners
- Graphite soft pencil
- Aguaplast - Robbialac
- Fine sand
- Plus Model Lead Wire

References Used

- Several internet sites and forums

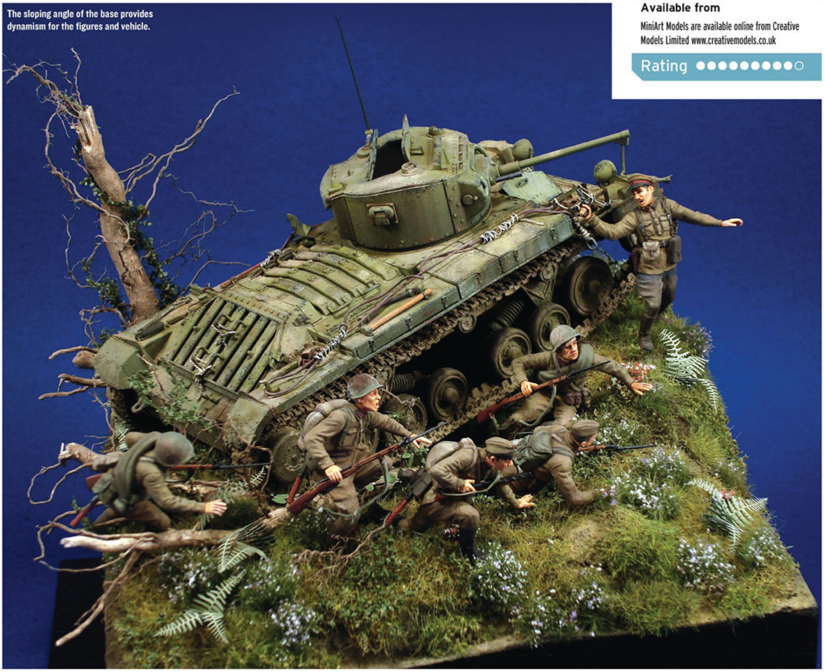
✓ Both the Valentine and Russian figures are great subjects.

✗ Nothing worth mentioning.

Available from

MiniArt Models are available online from Creative Models Limited www.creativemodels.co.uk

Rating ●●●●●●●●●○



The sloping angle of the base provides dynamism for the figures and vehicle.

1:35 '39-'45 SERIES
M4A3(75)W ETO
Smart Kit
DRAGON

Al Bowie weighs up the pros and cons of Dragon's latest Sherman, a 1:35 scale M4A3(75)W.

ETO SHERMAN 75

Dragon has been leading the market on Sherman kits since they released a Firefly variant of the Sherman V (M4A4) in the early 1990s. Their range has expanded past the original M4A4 variants, which had their origins in the older Italeri Shermans, to all new Smart Kits with multi media and boxes overflowing with spare parts.

This kit is the late war US M4A3 (75) W that was standardised as the preferred US hull and automotive type in 1944. These arrived in Europe in the later half of 1944 and started to equip the US forces beginning in September. This Sherman used the 47 degree hull which had a sloping one piece glacis removing the protruding hoods of the earlier models which were considered shell traps and weaknesses in the armour. It also had large hatches for the Driver and Bow Operator / Gunner and this model had the so called wet stowage hence the designation W. Wet stowage moved all ammunition for the main armament into the hull and placed it in glycerine filled tanks which significantly lowered the chance of catastrophic fire when hit by enemy fire and penetrated. This significantly increased the survivability of the crew and the tank. The Sherman had a bad reputation of burning when hit which was found to be through shell propellent being ignited by spall from penetrations.

Upon opening the box you are presented with the usual multi-sprue layout that defies all efforts to return it to the box. I was curious to see what they had changed on this after the recent M4A3 (76) W kits and was disappointed to find that the answer is not much.

The kit's instructions offer the modeller no real options other than whether to use different drive sprockets, PE for the tool straps or the light guards. Of course, if you are knowledgeable about Shermans there are other options in the box such as the two different cupolas, road wheels etc.

The kit has the excellent DS track which in this instance represent the T54 steel cuff with extended end connectors.

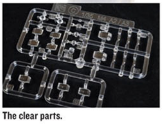
The kit starts construction with the running gear and whilst the instructions give you an option on the bogies, use the newer D 2 parts as the earlier return arm aren't commonly seen on late M4A3s. Ensure that you do not glue part A66 to A55 as this is moveable like the real thing to adjust track tension. Construction then continues to the transmission housing which is late type sharp nosed one but this I found disappointing in fit and design. The final drives (A29) end up completely misaligned if you follow Dragon's instructions. Remove the small alignment tab and rotate until the top of this is horizontal and not at the 15 degree angle that Dragon have it. The drive circumference should match the curve of the transmission but doesn't unfortunately. This would be a forgivable error if Dragon had not gotten it right on earlier releases. Dragon continues to ignore the side bolt strips where the transmission bolts on the hull.

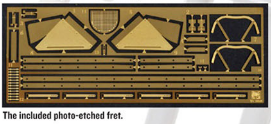
From here we get to the hull which is a one-piece marvel and excellent except for one small error in the form of the oval covers for the grouser compartments. Dragon have you shave this off, which will require care not to damage the fine details around it. The detail on the hull is sublime and the best I have seen on an M4A3 hull from any manufacturer (excluding the covers). The pioneer tools have straps moulded on although the kit gives you the options of using PE straps – a nice touch. Also in PE are the fenders, which are great and easy to add using either superglue or solder (a really good place to learn soldering PE). The side strips are also included as PE and really look the part.

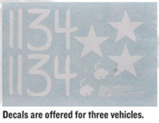
Dragon provides a very nice high bustle turret that has the thickened cheek on the gunner's side and a very nice texture. The gun tube supplied is one piece and quite nice. A turret mounted M2 .50 cal on a late mount is made up from 8 parts and is quite acceptable. The turret has the early stowage arrangements for the .50 cal minus the usual brackets for the spare and removed barrel. A small seam exists around the pistol port that will have to be removed and the surrounds re-textured.

This kit will build up into the best M4A3 (75) W kit yet tooled as a single kit, but it is disappointing in the areas outlined above. It is stunningly brilliant in some aspects (turret and hull) and downright amateurish in others such as the transmission and final drive fit. Considering how long we have waited and the known errors in Dragon M4A3s, it is sad they didn't address long known errors. Despite all of my comments it is still a very good kit and most of the problems are easily fixed. Recommended. ■

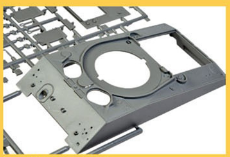
Thanks to The Hobby Company Limited for the sample www.hobbyco.net

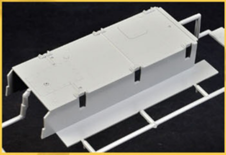

The clear parts.

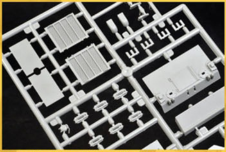

The included photo-etched fret.

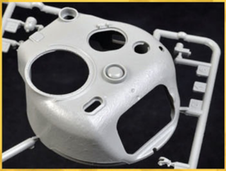


Decals are offered for three vehicles.

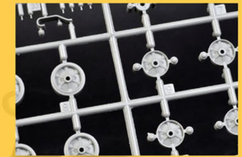

Dragon's brilliant upper hull


The lower hull is moulded in one piece.

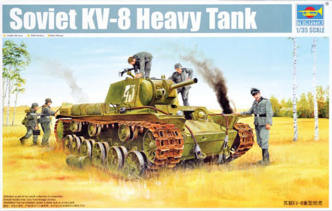

The quality of the moulding and detail is generally excellent.


The high bustle turret is also excellent.

Separate clear scopes are provided for the Commander's cupola.


Road wheels are supplied with inserts for the rear.

Dragon's flexible full-length DS tracks are supplied.



Trumpeter's latest addition to their comprehensive KV series is a 1:35 scale KV-8 Flamethrower tank. **Ross Ferro** describes the contents.

BURNT OFFERING

The KV-8(42) was a KV-1 fitted with the ATO-41 flame thrower in the turret, mounted coaxially instead of the machine gun. In order to fit this weapon the usual 76.2mm gun was replaced with the smaller 45mm M1932 gun and disguised to look like the standard 76mm.

The 1:35 scale kit is packed in typically sturdy and roomy Trumpeter style and contains over 340 parts. The majority are moulded in light grey plastic while the link and length tracks are moulded in a rusty brown coloured plastic. The tracks are also supplied as one piece vinyl if link and length aren't your thing. A small sprue of clear plastic parts, small photo etch sheet, sprue of poly caps for the running gear, length of finely twisted copper wire and minimal decal sheet finish things off.

Construction is laid out over 16 steps and the instructions in each step are satisfactorily clear to understand and follow. The single colour printed painting and marking guide is also very simple in its layout with only one version of this tank being illustrated and in turn decals being supplied only for this scheme.

The lower hull and running gear take up the majority of constructions steps 1 through 10 and if you have ever built one of Trumpeters KV kits before, then these steps will seem very familiar with the use of many of the same sprues and therefore parts from previous releases of the KV kits. The level of detail on all of the components used during these steps is nicely done with only the slightest hint of flash here and there. I am personally impressed with the overall fit and finesse of the parts in these kits, having built some of Trumpeters KV kits previously. I applaud them for producing some of the best detailed and value for money KVs going around.

The turret assembly commences at step 11 and this is where we see the sprue of new parts being used. The detail on the flame throwing gun mantlet is very well done and the hollowed end of the fake 76 mm gun tube shows the inner 45mm gun to great effect. The optional anti-aircraft DShK machine gun as well as the circular magazine cases are supplied on a separate sprue and are very nicely moulded. The parts from the small photo etch sheet are used at this point, to add some additional detail to the DShK gun and the anti aircraft gun mount.

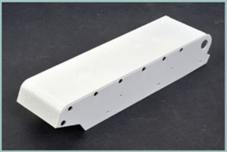
Construction is completed in steps 12 to 14 with the addition of the toolboxes, supplemental upper hull armour, tow cables and five external fuel tanks, presumably for the flame thrower. The final product looks very much like a stock-standard KV-1, which one can assume is what the Russians where hoping to achieve, however in this case with the additional benefit of a cleverly disguised flame throwing capability.

Painting and finishing is a fairly simple affair with "Russian Green" being the colour of choice and the decals only being supplied to represent the tank as shown on the box top. I am sure that with additional research other markings for this tank could be uncovered and dare I say a captured version as well.

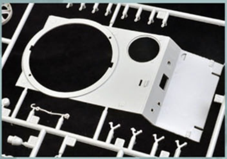
In conclusion, the kit looks to be as easy to construct as all of its KV predecessors and Trumpeter has done a great job of bringing this Soviet tank to life in 1;35 scale. Most importantly, they have again produced a well detailed and interesting version of this tank. Recommended. ■

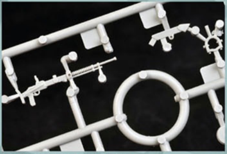
Distributed in the UK by Pocketbond.

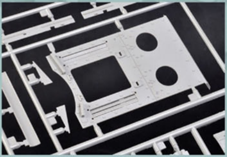
Thanks to J.B. Wholesalers for the sample www.jbwholesalers.com.au

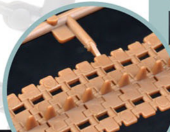

The one-piece lower hull moulding.

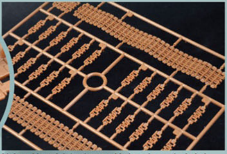
The distinctive squared-off turret.


The upper hull is supplied in two main parts. This is the forward half, which incorporates the turret ring.

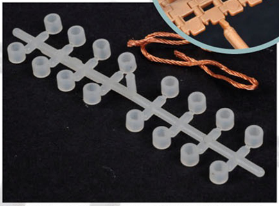

Detail parts are very well moulded.


The rear hull includes separate hatches and vents.

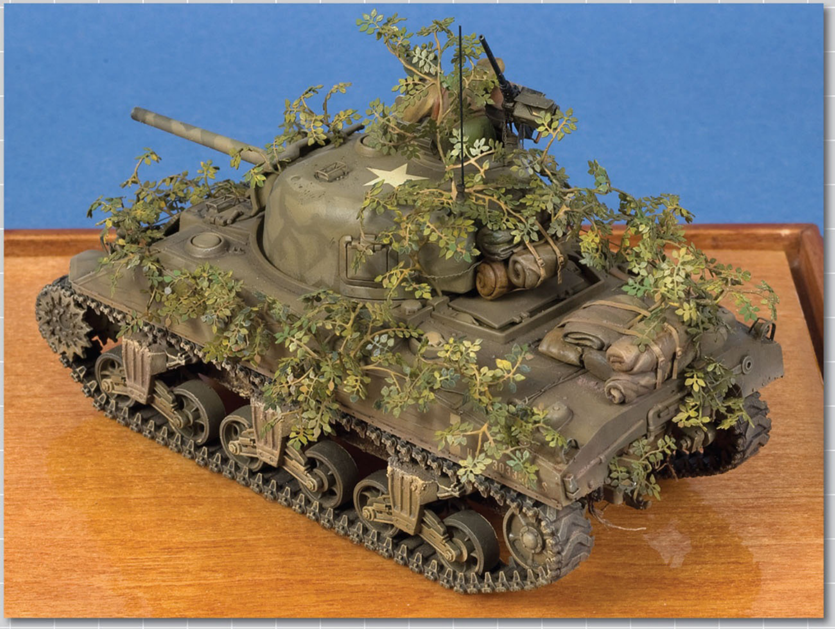



Link and length injection moulded tracks are included.

01565 KV-8
1
2
3
4
5
6
6
© 2011 TRUMPETER
The modestly sized photo-etched fret.


A little bit of multimedia – polythene caps for the wheels and copper wire for the tow cable.

Optional flexible vinyl tracks are offered too, but the hard plastic version is much better.



FOLIAGE FOR MODEL AFVS

PART ONE – PHOTO-ETCH

Luke Pitt shares some of his trade secrets for portraying authentic foliage on military models. Part One covers the use of photo-etched foliage accessories.

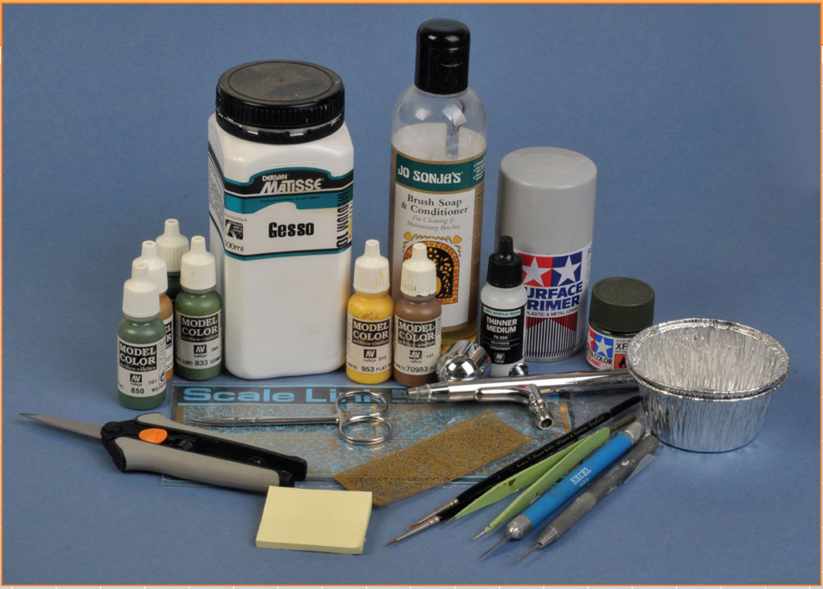
I find it rather odd that many modellers will look at photographs of tanks in the field and frequently complain that there is no product that can accurately portray foliage that is often draped over tanks. In fact, there are a number of alternatives, of which photo-etched parts are only one.

There is a school of thought that asks whether this technique merely hides all the good detail work you may have done, and to be honest with you I do get that. I have often asked that very same question myself. This process always draws me back, however, as the application of foliage can add a richness to any model without the need for, dare I say it, other exaggerated effects that I have seen on some models.

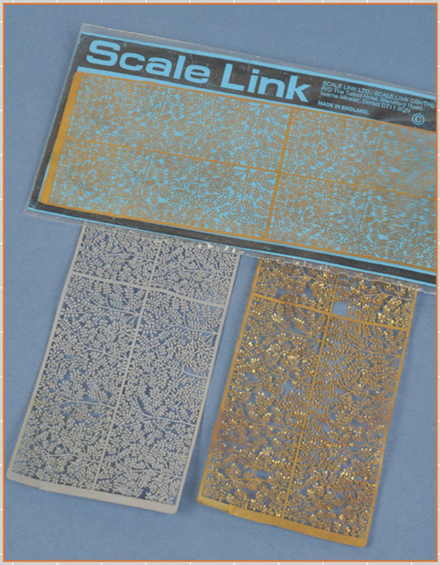
On a side note, I was tempted to call this article "Light Falling on Leaves" but it sounded a bit too arty-farty for my liking. Still, the effect of light on the leaves has a lot to do with making this an effective tool in our ever-increasing armoury of techniques.

It should be remembered that there is no right or wrong approach here. My method is merely one option and it is my hope that this article may inspire and indeed encourage some of you to improve upon the ideas that I am about to present. If time permits over the next few months, I will follow up this article with other products that I have used to create foliage on tanks.

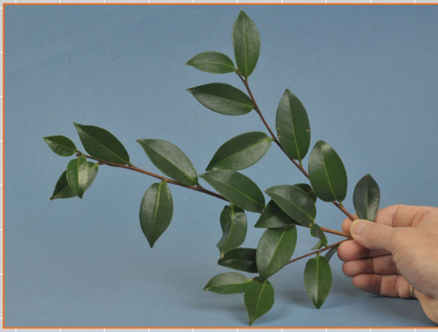
I have written this article in the "Spanish Way" and, as result, have included as many in-progress photos that I could possibly manage, each with a caption. ▶


MATISSE
Gesso
JO SONJA'S
Brush Soap & Conditioner
SURFACE PRIMER
MODEL COLOR
THINNER MEDIUM
Scale Link
EXCEL

Here are the main products used to produce photo-etched foliage, I won't go into naming all of them as the picture clearly illustrates what they are. I will mention, however, that a good set of sharp scissors is essential.

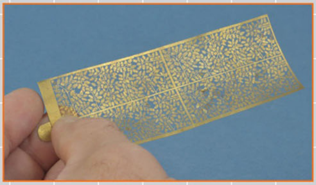

Scale Link
MADE IN ENGLAND.

For our demonstration, I have used Scale Link Foliage (SLF-39) and (SLF-34). It is labelled 1:72 and 1:160 respectively but can be used for models from 1:48 scale and upwards too. I like it, as the leaves are small and there are lots of them. The real value of this photo-etch however is the way it is designed. The branches are integrated into the fret, which makes bending a lot easier. In this view I have arranged the photo-etch as it comes, overlaid with a fret with the leaves curled and one with a coating of Tamiya Surface Primer.

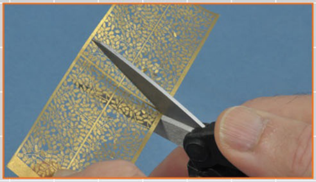


This is a real branch and this is what we are we should be aiming for. Note that in all cases the leaves have a slight curl to them and do not sit flat parallel to the branch (or stem). You will note also that the leaves have slight colour variations and the light bounces off them at different angles.

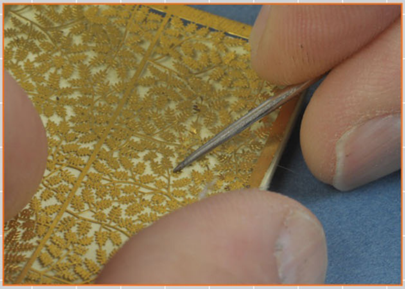
Tech Guide - Foliage for Model AFVs Part One - Photo-Etch



This is a real branch and in reality this is what we are we should be aiming for. Note that in all cases the leaves have a slight curl to them and do not sit flat parallel to the branch (or stem). You will note also that the leaves have slight colour variations and the light bounces off them at different angles.



In this photo I am cutting the fret into two panels in readiness for the next curing procedure.



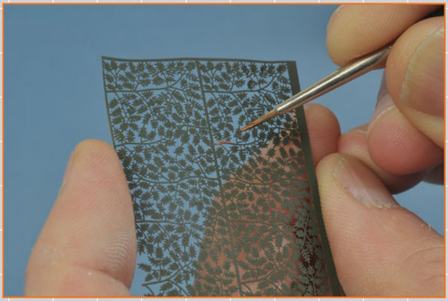
If you look at any normal leaf you will note that they are not flat. In most cases they are bent at a slight angle from the centre of the leaf to the outside edge. I try to imitate this by placing the fret on s semi-soft surface. In this case I have used a small pad of Post It Notes and press the curl in to each and every leaf with the aid of a fine needle. I generally only exert a small amount of pressure on each leaf. This is the most time consuming part of the process and, be warned, you will need the patience of a saint, but the results are worthwhile.

SURFACE PRIMER

When each leaf has had a slight curl impressed into it, it is time to lightly coat the photo-etched panel with a good metal primer. I generally use Tamiya aerosol Surface Primer as it is a good product and readily available.

The next step is the spray the entire fret with either green (for spring or summer months) or brown (for autumn months). This is of course dependent of the species of tree you are trying to imitate. The shade of green or brown is not really that important at this stage as the leaves will be touched up latter in the process.

The next step is time consuming, so consider yourself warned. The branches on the fret need to be thickened up (as branches are round, not flat) by using a medium like "Gesso". This acrylic medium remains flexible and has been used by artists for many years as a means of adding texture to otherwise flat surfaces. Paint this medium on the stems thickly and let dry over night. You may require 2 –3 coats to achieve a roundish branch.

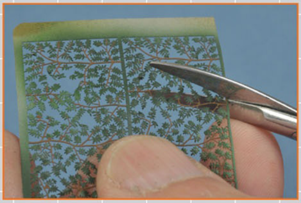


The next step is to paint the branches a brown colour of your choosing. I generally use Vallejo flat earth (70983) mixed on a disposable cake tray with a little thinner. Vallejo range of paints are ideal for this sort of application as they will remain flexible, which is important as the branches will be moved and bent at a later stage of the process.

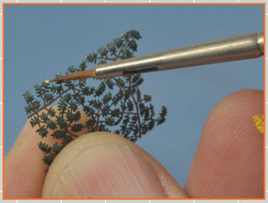
The application of paint to the branches can be tricky, so a good quality brush is essential. I always use Winsor & Newton Series 7 brushes as they keep their point (if taken care of).

Cleaning of your brushes is an important step as the Windsor and Newton brushes are not cheap, so maintenance is essential I generally use Jo Sonjas brush soap and conditioner placed on to a thick tissue.

The brush may then wiped clean and rinsed in clean water.

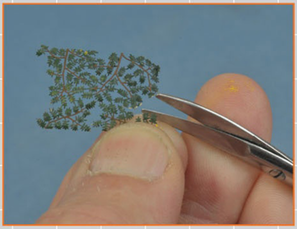


With the aid of some sharp surgical scissors, cut away the leaves from the borders of the photo-etched fret.

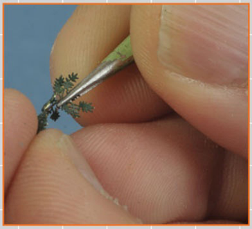


You will note that when cutting away the leaves from the fret, an unsightly scar will appear on the cut surface exposing the underlying brass. I am pointing this out with the end of my brush in this photo.

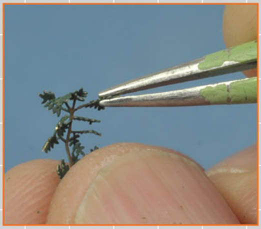
In this photo, the separation scar is being touched up with Vallejo Medium Olive 850.



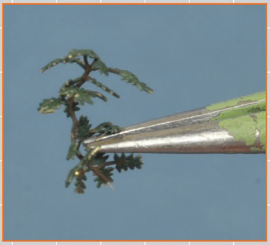
In this step, the separation of the leaves begins. The scale link foliage is designed in such a way that most of the leaves are joined to other leaves by a thin bridging point between the leaves themselves. Care is needed here as the object is to produce a "flat pack" branch (for want of a better term).



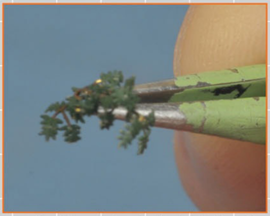
With the "flat pack" branch cut away, bend the leaves with your thumb and forefinger into a slightly rounded shape (the curl should go the length of the leaf). Next, bend the branches to the desired shape. Try and visualize what the foliage will look like before you apply it to your tank. It is most important to bend the branches to produce a 3D effect.



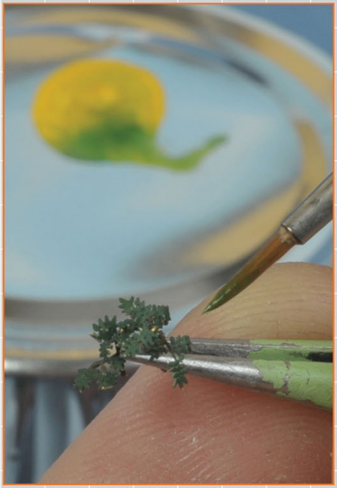
In this photo, additional adjustments are being made to a branch to produce the desired 3D effect.



In this sequence the main branch is being adjusted to produce a slightly irregular shape.



One small branch is now semi complete. If you look closely you will note that the upper branch and leaf divides are still a little flat. Small downward bends will alleviate this.



In this last photo, the completed branch is being touched up with a mix of yellow and green Vallejo paint. At this stage, your branch is fairly uniform in colour, so it is very important to make some leaves a slightly different colour randomly.

FINISHING TOUCHES

The last step is to apply the foliage using PVA glue and touch up the ends of the leaves where they have come away from the fret. At this stage your model is probably slightly semi-gloss. The best matt varnish I have ever used is Vallejo 520 which produces a dead flat finish and blends everything in straight from the bottle. This is but one of many ways to apply foliage to your AFVs.

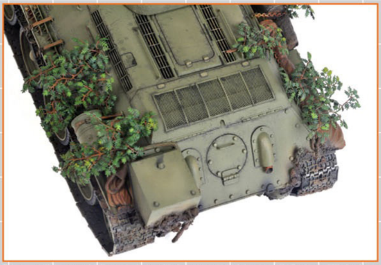
UPS AND DOWNS

The downside to this method is that it is very time consuming by its very nature, and you will spend a good deal of time touching up the ends of the photo-etch where it has come away from the fret.

It can sometimes be a maddening process as you will find a shiny brass end that you have not touched up days after the model is complete, and you will have to apply paint to cover it up. A solution that will avoid this problem altogether is using a paper product and we will discuss this in a future installment of this series. ■

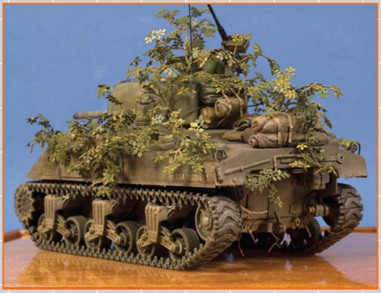
Foliage may also be used standalone in vignettes and dioramas.

The shrubbery here lends interest plus a sense of context and scale to the single figure.

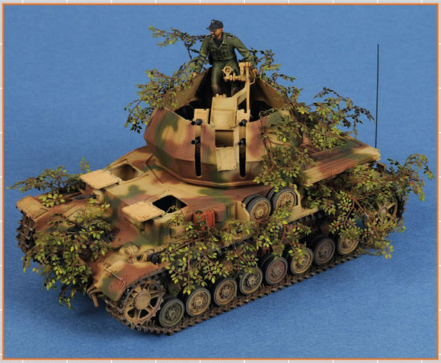


Even a small amount of foliage can have a big impact on a model, especially Soviet or Allied subjects finished in potentially drab single-coloured schemes.

> "If you look at any normal leaf you will note that they are not flat. In most cases they are bent at a slight angle from the centre of the leaf to the outside edge..."



In other cases, the model may be all but hidden by the foliage. This amount of coverage is a serious commitment in work and time!



Luke's 1:48 scale Wirbelwind with plenty of foliage in place.

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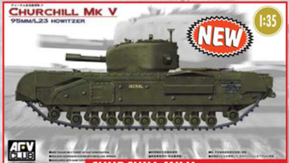
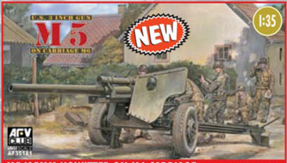
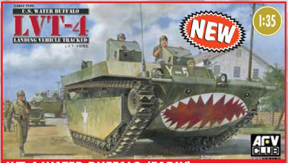

CHURCHILL Mk V
95MM/L23 HOWITZER
NEW
1:35
AFV CLUB
AF35155

CHURCHILL MK V AF35155 £39.99


U.S. 3 INCH GUN
M5
ON CARRIAGE M6
NEW
1:35
AFV CLUB
AF35181

M5 105MM HOWITZER ON M6 CARRIAGE AF35181 £26.99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LVT-4
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1:35
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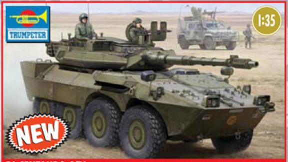
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1:35
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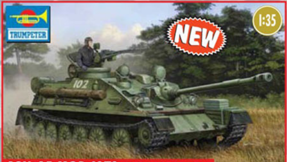
TRUMPETER
1:35
NEW

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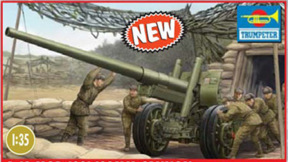
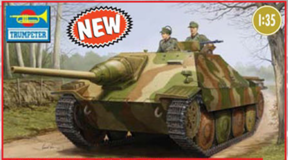
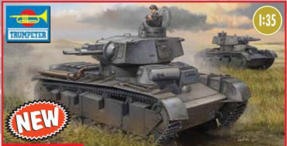

NEW
TRUMPETER
1:35

A-19 MOD 1931 122MM CANNON TM02316 £29.99


TRUMPETER
NEW
1:35

JAGDPANZER 38(T) STARR TM05524 £31.99


TRUMPETER
1:35
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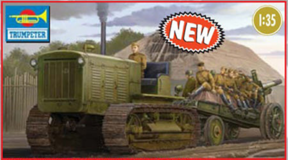
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NEW
1:35

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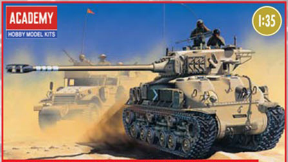
ACADEMY
HOBBY MODEL KITS
1:35

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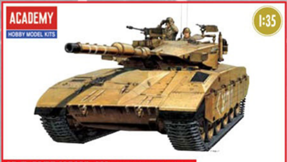
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HOBBY MODEL KITS
1:35

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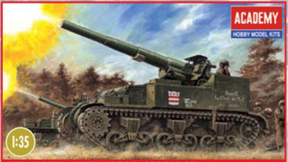
ACADEMY
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1:35

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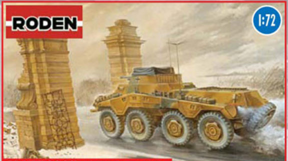

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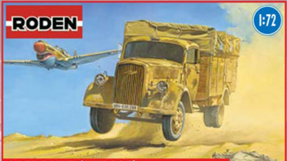
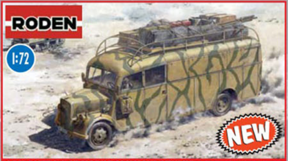


OPEL BLITZ (KFZ 305) URO-710 £11.99


RODEN
1:72
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March 17th-18th
SKALA 2012 - IPMS Norway Nationals.
On 17 and 18 March 2012, IPMS Norway is holding its annual competition and exibition at Letohallen near Gardermoen Int. Airport.
This is one of the largest model competitions in Scandinavia and, like last year, we will have different demonstrations and how-tos from both national and international model builders.
For more information see www.ipmsnorge.org/portal/
Questions regarding the show can be sent to post@ipmsnorge.org
We would like to welcome all model builders from all parts of the world!

March 31st
South Devon Model Extravaganza.
The third annual South Devon Model Extravaganza will be held on 31st March 2012. There will be a competition for those who like to compete as well as lots of traders and raffle, with proceeds going to charity. This event is as previously designed to encompass the whole range of modelling disciplines and therefore is not limited to just one aspect like other shows.
The new venue is conveniently located at the Ashmore Recreation Centre, just off of the main A-38 at Ashburton.
More information is available on the website www.ipms-dartmoor.blogspot.com/p/ipms-dartmoor-model-extravaganza.html

April 14th
POOLE VIKINGS MODEL CLUB ANNUAL SHOW
Saturday 14 April 2012, Parkstone Grammar School, Open 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
One of the best scale plastic model shows in the South of England! Over 50 exhibitors, dioramas and displays from visiting clubs – see amazing scale models of planes, armour and science - fiction subjects. Over 30 scale model retailers, selling kits, accessories and books - get yourself a bargain! Make and Take event - for children and beginners. Glue, paint and take away a scale plastic model - materials and guidance free of charge. Tombola / Refreshments and other attractions on the day.
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For Further Details, Make & Take bookings and trade enquiries: Contact Sue Meadowcroft 07522 529867
Venue: Parkstone Grammar School Sopers Lane BH17 7EP

April 20th-22nd
IPMS SPACE COAST FLORIDA – MODEFEST
IPMS Space Coast will host a Modelfest and contest from April 20-22 2012 at the International Pal Resort, 1300 N Atlantic Ave., Cocoa Beach FL. For special guest rates call 321-783-2271, code: SCM. For contest information please contact Bob Taylor, 321-676-1472 between 10:00am and 8:00pm, or email BHT936@aol.com
Vendor contact is Carl Weaver, 321-431-5536 between 10:00am and 8:00pm, or email cweaver@cfl.rr.com
Visit our website at: www.ipmsspacecoast.com

April 28th
Plymouth Scale Model show.
The Plymouth Scale Model Show will be held on Saturday 28th April at the Guildhall from 10:00 am – 4:30 pm.
The show will include displays commemorating the Falklands 30th Anniversary.
Food will be available and a raffle held during the event.
Further details from Dave Watson 01752 518287, email potandjoe@blueyonder.co.uk

April 29th
9th Modellbaufreunde Siegen Model Show.
The 9th Modellbaufreunde Siegen Model Show will be held on 29 April 2012 at the Festival Hall in Wilnsdorf, Germany.
For more information, please email www.modellbaufreunde-siegen.de

May 20th
RAF Museum Hendon Model Show.
The date for the next Hendon Model Show has been fixed for Sunday 20 May 2012 from 10 am to 6 pm. The show will be held at the Royal Air Force Museum, Grahame Park Way, London, NW9 5LL.
This is the show's fourth year and we have been pleased to see consistently increasing numbers of visitors from both the modelling community and general public.
We are now opening booking for traders and clubs. To register your club please email hendonmodelshow@yahoo.co.uk
For more information, please visit www.rafmuseum.org/whatson

June 17th
MAFVA NATIONALS 2012
The date has been determined for the vehicle show and thus the MAFVA nationals for next year: Sunday June 17th 2012 (Father's day).
And more good news, we appear to have a marquee as well! More information will be available in coming issues.

June 23rd
Amay Modèles Club 19th Modelling Day.
On 23 June 2012, Amay Modèles Club presents its 19th Modelling Day (exhibition and swap meet) at the IPES Huy, 6 Avenue Delchambre,
B-4500 Huy (Belgium).
For further information, please contact Michel Calluy, 13 Thier du Moulin, B-4530 Villers-le-Bouillet (B). tel : 00 32 85 231086
e-mail michel.calluy@skynet.be
All the details are available on our AMC Web site www.amaymodelesclub.org

August 19th
LETCHWORTH MODEL SHOWCASE 2012
Letchworth Scale model club is proud to announce MODEL SHOWCASE on
Sunday 19th August 2012
Our new venue is The Broadway Hotel Ballroom, Letchworth, SG6 3NZ
(Next door to Morrisons Supermarket) less than a minute from Letchworth station. Ample parking at the venue and at the town centre carpark less than 3-4 mins away
Doors Open 10.00.
Trade stands, visiting clubs and demos, 20 class competions.
Wargames demos/participation games. And if you get peckish there is everything from a sandwich to a 4 course meal, and a bar for the non drivers
For Further info please contact Bob Parker 01480 891710 or email robrenparker@sky.com, or Frank Henson. 01462674020

September 8th-9th
QMHE 2012, BRISBANE AUSTRALIA
17th Anniversary 2012
Queensland Model Hobbies Expo and Queensland Scale Modelling Championships, will be held at the Brisbane Table Tennis Association Stadium, Green Terrace, Windsor (Downey Park), Brisbane, Queensland 4030, Australia from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm Saturday 08 September and 9.00 am to 4.00 pm Sunday 09 September 2012.
Visit www.qmhe.com or contact the Secretary; secretary@qmhe.com for more information.

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- SKP 1:35 Austin Tilly
- Trumpeter 1:35 Sd.Kfz. 7
- Hobby Boss 1:35 ZLC-2000
- Zvezda 1:35 L 4500 R
- Finishing School Part Seven
- Hobby Boss 1:35 T26E4
- Cherbourg 1944 small scale dio Pt 2
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- » and more...

50 Model MILITARY INTERNATIONAL
ACHTUNG SCHNELLBOOT!

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- 2009 IPMS USA Nationals
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- Tasca Sherman III Mid-Production
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- Zvezda 1:35 ISU-152 Pt.2
- Dragon 1:35 sIG 33 auf Fgst.Pz.Kpfw. III
- Trumpeter 1:35 ZLC-2000
- Zvezda Mercedes L4500R Maultier
- » and more...

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ONE WAY TICKET

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- BVM 1:35 Zis-30
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- Italeri 1:35 LCVP + Jeep
- Trumpeter 1:35 upgraded Challenger 2
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- Spearhead Miniatures 1:9 British Paratrooper figure.
- Tamiya 1:35 T-55 in Iraqi markings
- Small-scale Cherbourg diorama Pt.3
- Legends Tusk II Conversion
- Dust Walker and Figures
- » and more...

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WOODY GOES TO WAR

Issue 53
- Trumpeter 1:35 scale LAVR
- Dragon 1:35 Sd.Kfz. 251/22 Ausf. D.
- Squadron's EagleQuest XIX
- AMT's 1:25 Ford Station Wagon conversion
- Badger Velocity Airbrush bench test
- GHQ 1:285 scale Diorama
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- TANKFEST 2010 show report
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- Tristar 1:35 SD.KFZ.222
- Corrugated Iron in Scale - Tech Guide
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- T-84 OPLOT project
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FLAGS AND PACKS
SPIRIT OF 76

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A RUSSIAN IN KABUL

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- Bronco 1:35 Archer 17 Pdr SPG
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- Dragon 1:35 Befehls Panther
- Dragon RSO in winter whitewash
- Dragon's Panzer IV Ausf. G
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- CyberHobby 1:35 Neubaufahrzeug
- HobbyBoss 1:35 M3A1 White Scout Car
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- Tamiya 1:48 Panzer II Ausf.A/B/C
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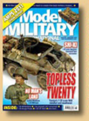
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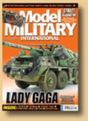
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THE JACKAL'S LAIR

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Book Reviews

BATTLELINE 2
COMRADE EMCHA
RED ARMY SHERMANS OF WW2
CLAUDE GILLONO WITH LEIFE HULBERT
346
FIREFLY COLLECTION

COMRADE EMCHA - RED ARMY SHERMANS OF WWII

BY CLAUDE GILLONO WITH LEIFE HULBERT
ISBN: 978-0-9806593-7-5
THE OLIVER PUBLISHING GROUP

This book is the second title in the Battleline series and covers the use of the Sherman Tank by the USSR in WW2. It is not generally known that the USSR received thousands of Lend Lease tanks from the USA, Britain & Canada during the war. Of these, not all were gratefully received however the Russians liked the Sherman for its reliability and equipped a number of Elite Guards formations with it. Over 4000 M4A2 Shermans were received being roughly 50/50 75mm and 76mm armed variants. They were used from November 1942 until the final battles of May 1945 with many used in the Soviet Assault on Berlin and the belated operations against Japan days before the war's end. This title is 33 pages and similar in format to the earlier titles with 5 pages of colour plates and over 50 B&W photos. The Book is essentially a collections of photos supported by colour plates many previously being unpublished. Pictures are clear and presented in large format, usually 2-3 to a page allowing the reader to see the detail. The Author, Claude Gillono whose previous title, First Blood, on the US 1st Armoured Division in Tunisia has compiled a well researched and informative title on a subject notoriously difficult to research.

A good general history of the Sherman in USSR service is included and a listing and description of all the Sherman equipped formations is provided and this is illustrated with well captioned photographs giving the reader a great amount of detail of the images. The captions for the photos are detailed and in the majority of cases have identified the units the vehicles belonged to, the variant of M4A2 and the area where the photograph was taken.

The colour plates cover a variety of vehicles with the first two pages devoted to the M4A2 75mm variants (the Soviets were the only user of all the sub variants of the M4A2). Five vehicles are covered in side profile with insets for detail markings and other Turret markings from those formations indicated. The last three pages cover 8 M4A2 76mm variants mainly in side profile and including detail insets and alternative turret markings. The profiles are all based on photographs within the title and the Author has indicated where any speculation regarding schemes is involved. The captions contain a great amount of information which will be of use to the modeller regarding variations between vehicles such as track types, muzzle brakes, etc.

I feel this book will appeal to fans of Soviet Armour, Shermans, modellers and historians alike. It shows a side of the Soviet Army rarely seen and for this should be encouraged. Modellers should find many an interesting scene to depict within its pages.

Recommended.

Thanks to the Oliver Publishing Group for the sample www.oliverpublishinggroup.com

Al Bowie

US MARINE CORPS
TANKS OF WORLD WAR II
STEVEN J. ZALOGA
ILLUSTRATED BY RICHARD CHASEMORE
KING KONG
OSPREY
WWW.OSPREYPUBLISHING.COM

US MARINE CORPS TANKS OF WORLD WAR II

BY STEVEN J ZALOGA
ISBN: 978-1-84908-5560-1
OSPREY PUBLISHING – NEW VANGUARD SERIES NO. 186

Steve Zaloga is no stranger to readers of the Osprey Vanguard and New Vanguard series. His latest title in the series is USMC Tanks of World War Two. Other than pictorial titles, there is little in the budget range on the USMC's use of tanks in WWII so this title fills this niche nicely with the revised New Vanguard Format having many photographs and colour plates to support the informative narrative.

USMC Tanks in the Pacific war were extremely colourful and this title with its colour profiles again shatters the myth that Shermans were Olive Drab and nothing but Olive Drab. The book covers most of the major tanks used by the USMC in WWII from the miniscule Marmon Herringtons of the early war years through to the late M4A3 of the 45 battles. The book is broken up into chapters covering:

1. Introduction.
2. Early Marine Armour.
3. Into Combat
4. Marine Medium Tanks
5. Operation Flintlock: the Marshall Islands
6. Marine Flame thrower Tanks
7. The Marianas – June – July 44
8. Operation Stalemate: Pelelui Sept 44
9. Preparations for attacking the Inner Ring
10. Operation Detachment: Iwo Jima
11. Operation Iceberg: Okinawa
12. Further Reading (Unpublished Govt Reports, Articles, Books)

This truly is a fascinating and informative title that gives the reader a good insight into the USMC's usage of tanks and its approach to supporting its troops in combat. It is backed up by a good collection of photos and excellent colour plates covering a variety of mainly Sherman Tanks but also of the M2 and M3 Lights used early in the campaign. The Pacific war was mainly fought at close quarters with the tanks in their originally intended role as infantry support. This resulted a lot of infantry and suicide attacks and led to some unique improvisation to protect the tanks. Combined with the colourful schemes USMC tanks in the Pacific are an interesting subject for the Modeller and student of armoured warfare.

I highly recommend this title to historians, armour enthusiasts and modellers.

Highly Rcommended.

Osprey books are available online from their website www.ospreypublishing.com

Al Bowie

Figures - A round-up of the latest figure sets on release...

SOVIET MEDICAL PERSONNEL WWII
1943-1945
3618
СОВЕТСКИЕ САНИТАРЫ 1943-1945
1/35

ZVEZDA

1:35 SCALE
SOVIET MEDICAL PERSONNEL WWII
1943-45 • KIT NO; 3618

Here is another new release by Russian company Zvezda, this time featuring Soviet medical personnel at a frontline first aid post from the later war years. Moulded in sand-coloured styrene, this set comprises five figures and equipment all contained on one sprue. The figures comprise two stretcher-bearers, a female medical orderly, and two casualties.

Detail, as we have come to expect from Zvezda recently, is very good. The sculpting on the faces is something I particularly like. Although some parts have seam lines, these are easily removed with a blade. As with other figures from this manufacturer, you have the choice of hands either separate or moulded onto a weapon. Optional heads with or without steel helmets are also offered for the stretcher-bearers. Equipment and weapons are (as you would imagine with medical personnel) limited to three PPSH machine guns, a single Mosin-Nagant rifle, a couple of first aid bags and a solitary water bottle.

The uniforms are typical of this period. All five figures wear the M43 'Gimnasterka' tunic, the males wear 'Sharovari' breeches and the female medic a skirt. She also features the NCO version of the tunic as it has two pockets on the chest.

As with other Zvezda figure sets, no decals for rank insignia are included but these are pretty basic anyway and should not present much of a problem to paint. Assembly instructions are straightforward and Testor's Model Master colours are listed for painting at the end with a small guide, however for reference I would personally use the box front as the artwork is very nicely done.

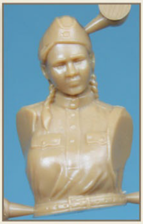
This is another good set of figures from a company that is fast becoming one of my favourite model manufacturers. The quality of recent releases is certainly on a par with other companies from the Far East.

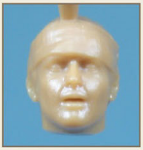
Keep up the good work Zvezda!

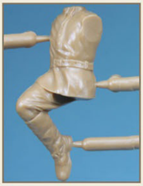
Highly Recomnended.

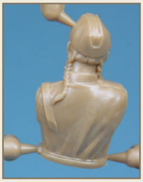
Zvezda kits and figure sets are distributed in the UK by The Hobby Company Limited www.hobbyco.net

Andy King









German Infantry
Barbarossa 1941
DRAGON

DRAGON 39-45 SERIES

1:35 SCALE
GERMAN INFANTRY, BARBAROSSA 1941
KIT NO; 6580

Operation Barbarossa was the codename given to the German invasion of Russia in 1941 and Dragon has seen fit to release this set of four figures from that period. Moulded in grey styrene, the box contains four sprues, one with the new figures and three older ones from the 'Gen 2 Gear'with various items of personal equipment and weapons.

The standard of detail is excellent with the folds, facial expressions, uniform insignia etc very nicely sculpted but to be picky the standard of moulding is not as sharp due to some prominent seam lines and flash present. Not a big deal as it is easily removed with a sharp blade but still there are what I would term 'die lines' that appear on the figures in various places and something that plagues Dragon figures. They can be remedied with a filler like Mr Surfacer but I do wish Dragon would avoid this problem, as these lines will show up under a coat of paint unless addressed beforehand.

The figures are all in action poses and feature the uniform typical of this period, with what look to be M1940 pattern tunics with the pleated pockets and trousers. All the equipment for full marching order is included plus the NCO in the prone position has a case for flares. The weapons found in the box are a generic set so a couple of items won't be applicable to 'Barbarossa' such as the MP44, MG42 and Gewehr 43 (Parts W13, 14 and 15).

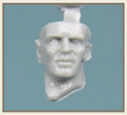
Assembly and painting instructions are on the back of the box. The colours quoted are from both Gunze Sangyo (Mr Colour and Aqueous Hobby Colour) and Testor's Model Master paint ranges.

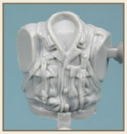
Apart from the minor gripe about the moulding issues, this is another great set of figures from Dragon.

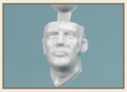
Highly Recommended.

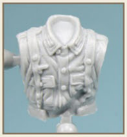
Dragon kits and figure sets are distributed in the UK by The Hobby Company Limited www.hobbyco.net

Andy King

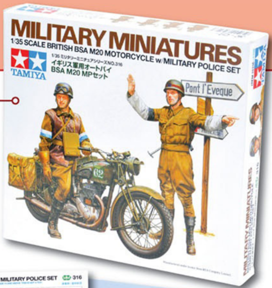








Incoming



TAMIYA

1:35 SCALE

BRITISH BSA M20 MOTORCYCLE WITH MILITARY POLICE SET • KIT NO. 35316

Tamiya continues its contribution to British WWII equipment and personnel with its brand new 1:35 scale BSA M20 Motorcycle with Military Police Set.

The Birmingham Small Arms company already had a long history as a manufacturer of firearms before it became the largest producer of British motorcycles in the Second World War. The 500cc, 12 horsepower civilian BSA M20 design was adapted to military use, and a staggering 126,000 units were produced during the war. These saw service on all fronts in a wide range of roles, continuing to serve until well into the 1950s.

Tamiya's BSA M20 set comprises 48 olive-coloured parts on two sprues. Moulding quality is all that we have come to expect from Tamiya – crisp and free from flash and imperfections.

The bike itself is made up from just 20 parts on one sprue. It looks very nicely detailed but should be fast and easy to build. The engine is moulded integrally with each half of the bike, The wheels and mudguards are moulded together. Spokes are represented by moulded plastic, but they are quite thin. For those who would like finer depiction of these parts, "Inside the Armour" has already released a detail set that includes photo-etched spokes.

The second sprue contains two figures – one seated on the motorcycle and one British MP directing traffic. This sprue also includes four packs for the bike and a post for a road sign. Two Sten guns and solid plastic goggles round out the plastic parts.

A small decal sheet provides markings for four bikes, with different serial numbers, Divisional markings and Unit signs. Decals are also offered for the speedometer, the rider's blue and white armbands and the MP's helmet markings.

Instructions are provided on a long single folded sheet. The back of the box serves as a useful colour painting guide. The end flap of the box is printed with coloured road signs that may be cut out and glued to the plastic sign post.

This neat little set will work well with a larger diorama or as a standalone scene.

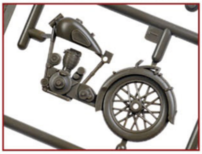
Highly Recommended.

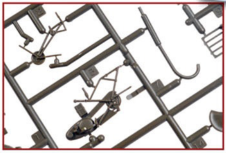
Thanks to Tamiya for the sample
www.tamiya.com

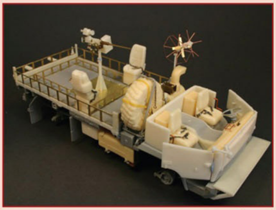
Tamiya kits are distributed in the UK by The Hobby Company Limited www.hobbyco.net

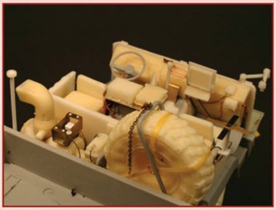
Brett Green

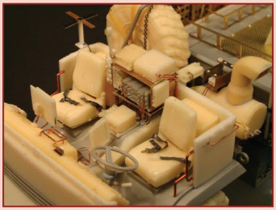
1/35 BRITISH BSA M20 MOTORCYCLE w/ MILITARY POLICE SET 316
ISH BSA M20 MOTORCYCLE
Y POLICE SET (35316)11403461
TAMIYA, INC.

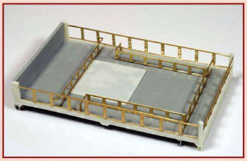


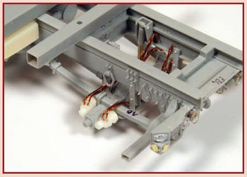












PRO ART MODELS

1:35 SCALE - CONVERSION DETAIL SET FOR M1078 LMTV SPECIAL FORCES WAR PIG • ITEM NO. PAU-35043

"War Pig" is a cut-down version of the M1078 LMTV cargo truck. A small number of these conversions were built as Command Vehicles for US Special Forces in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Pro Art Models has released a 1:35 scale War Pig conversion for the Trumpeter LMTV kit.

This conversion comprises more than 90 parts in cream coloured resin plus two photo-etched frets packed tightly into Pro Art Models' typical blue end-opening box.

The cover photo shows an assembled War Pig with stowage, spare tyre, radio equipment, a pintle-mounted .50 cal and PSP plating on the sides of the cargo bay, but the conversion does not include any of these extras. For this conversion, parts are supplied for the new cut-down cab, the open cargo tray and many new items for the chassis. The Commander's M240 machine gun is provided too though.

All the resin parts are well cast and crisply detailed. I could not find any imperfections on my sample. Cleanup looks to be fairly straightforward thanks to relatively modest casting blocks.

The photo-etched parts are supplied in two thicknesses. The thicker of the frets is dedicated to the new cargo bay sides, while finer details are offered on the smaller fret.

Instructions are laid out over two double-sided A4 pages via exploded view diagrams, although I think that the photos of the conversion in progress on Pro Art Models' website will be a big help when assembling the parts.

If you want to add the detail seen on the box photo, all these parts are available as separate items from Pro Art Models, including a specific stowage set (Item No. PAU-35050).

This is a significant conversion for an interesting vehicle that will have plenty of diorama appeal.

Highly Recommended.

Thanks to Pro Art Models for the samples www.proartmodels.be

Brett Green

PRO ART MODELS

1:35 SCALE

PAU-35030 – REALISTIC SAGGED TYRES FOR M1078 (LMTV)
PAU-35036 – HEAVY DUTY CASES (MODERN)
PAU-35037 – REALISTIC SAGGED TYRES FOR FMTV
PAU-35038 – MODERN CLAMPING TOOLS
PAU-35040 – LOW PRESSURE GAS BOTTLES
PAU-35041 – MODERN AMMUNITION BOXES
PAU-35042 – MODERN .50 CAL AND MK.93 CRADLE
PAU-35044 – PSP PLANKING
PAU-35047 – JERRY CAN SET FOR MODERN VEHICLES
PAU-35049 – US SPECIAL FORCES VEHICLE COMMUNICATIONS SET

Pro Art Models' raison d'être has always been modern vehicles and accessories, and their latest batch of releases remains firmly focused. All of the items under review have broad application to US equipment used in Iraq and Afghanistan, but a number of them will also be specifically useful for the new War Pig conversion too.

The tyre sets for the LMTV and FMTV feature five pieces each – four main wheels and a spare tyre. The characteristic wavy appearance of the tyres' sidewalls is faithfully reproduced. The casting blocks are so thin that I could actually snap them off. Casting quality is very good although there are a few pinholes in a couple of the wheel hubs. A few minutes with Milliput will address this issue.

These tyres will be a great improvement over the vinyl parts supplied in the Trumpeter kits.

The clamps are provided in photo-etch with a few small resin pieces, but you'll need to supply your own favourite material for the straps – paper or thin lead foil would be the most common.

The ammunition boxes, gas bottles, cases and jerry cans will be useful for a wide variety of vehicles and around dioramas. Once again, cleanup will be very easy (not literally a snap, but a few minutes with a razor saw will do the trick), and casting quality is very high.

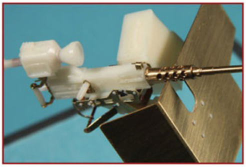
The Special Forces radios, modern .50 cal and the PSP planking will be desirable enhancements for the aforementioned LMTV War Pig. The .50 cal and Mk.93 cradle is a kit in its own right with resin, photo-etched and turned brass pieces. The PSP planking is very clever. The planks are supplied in flat photo-etched brass, but Pro Art provides a resin jig to make sure that the metal is bent into its very distinctive shape.

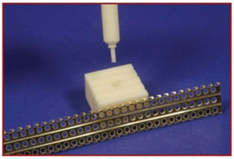
All these sets will be welcomed by modellers of modern American and Coalition subjects.

All Recommended.

Thanks to Pro Art Models for the samples www.proartmodels.be

Brett Green





Revell
GTK BOXER (GTFz)
1:35
03093

REVELL

1:35 SCALE - GTK BOXER (GTFZ) • KIT NO. 03093

Not so long ago, HobbyBoss released a 1:35 scale Boxer. This was a prototype, but hey presto, Revell has now gone and delivered the goods with a production version of the Boxer, and it really does look great.

Inside the box are nine spues of plastic, eight vinyl tyres and a length of string for tow cable. Also included are decals for four vehicles and a 15-page instruction sheet, well drawn and easy to read.

There is a total of 224 parts in a green plastic with minimal flash, but nothing over the top and going through the 48 stages of construction, it looks to be a well detailed and thought out kit. What really impressed me is that there is a driver's compartment and the separate infantry module designed to separate from the vehicle in an explosive situation.

However, I was a little sorry to see that an interior to the module was not included and all hatches are moulded in the closed position.

Care will be needed throughout the build as a lot of the main structures are in separate parts and making sure these are aligned correctly is very important, or it may end in tears.

The weapons station looks to be nice, though I myself may opt for a slightly better .50 cal or Mk. 19, as I think the kit ones are lacking in detail - just a personal thing.

I think when built, Revell's new 1:35 scale Boxer will be quite an impressive looking machine, and I do recommend it to all.

Recommended.

Revell model kits are available from all good toy and model retailers. For further information visit www.revell.eu

Andrew Judson

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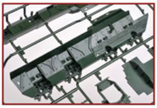
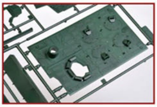
112 112 112
03093-0240c GTK Boxer (GTFz)





No. 656
1/35 scale
Factory ruin with steam boiler
MODEL
DIORAMA ACCESSO

ROYAL MODEL

1:35 SCALE

FACTORY RUIN WITH STEAM BOILER • ITEM NO. 656

Italian modelling products have always known for their great quality, originality, finesse and accuracy.

Royal Model is no exception and that is why they are already a legend in the modelling world. If you have never heard of them, then you must check your pulse (or at the very least their website)!

Their new 1:35 scale set, "Factory Ruin with Steam Boiler", is a real must-have item.

The set is presented in their usual fashion; a cardbox with a picture of lovely finished item on top.

Once the box is opened we are presented with a multimedia kit. The walls are cast in plaster; the roof, tiles, small parts and boiler are made in resin; and the window frames are done in photo-etch.

The wall's texture is very nice and features great detail. The resin parts are flawlessly cast and the boiler is a massive resin piece. The tiles and wood structure from the roof are also very well detailed.

The photo-etched parts are very nice and with a lovely detail.

One of the most interesting features of this set is that it compromises both exterior and interior detail. Being so, this set may be used as a diorama background and also as the diorama centrepiece.

This set may also be placed in several space and time frames. It can be used in WWI, WWII, Ex-Yugoslavia, Georgia, Chechnya... many alternative scenarios. This is a very positive point for this set.

As usual, the instructions are top class. Very clear and concise.

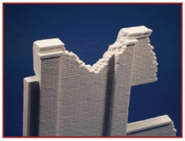
In Royal Model catalogue we will find a huge number of sets and accessories that can be combined with this set.

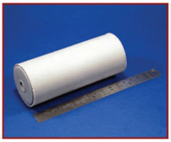
In conclusion, this is another great item from Royal Model. They keep raising the bar and we love it!

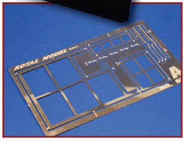
Highly Recommended.

Thanks to Royal Model for the sample
http://www.royalmodel.com/it/

José Brito





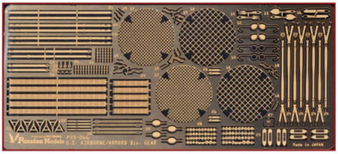


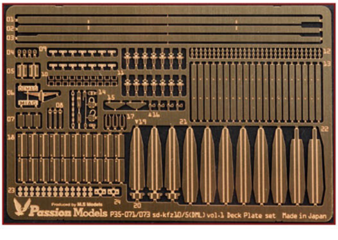
PASSION MODELS

1:35 SCALE

P35-066 - ARMOURED SOLDIERS GEAR & DECAL SET WWII AMERICAN AIRBORNE SOLDIER
P35-071 - SD.KFZ.10/5 DETAIL UP SET (PART 1-A) CLOSE PLATFORM VERSION
P35-075 - "JENNY'S CLAMP" WWII GERMAN ARMY OVM CLAMP SET (EARLY TYPE)
P35-076 - "JENNY'S CLAMP" WWII GERMAN ARMY OVM CLAMP SET (LATE TYPE)

Passion Models
Passion Models
Passion Models
Passion Models




Passion Models P35-071/073 sd-kfz10/5(DML) vol-1 Deck Plate set Made in Japan

Passion Models produces some of the nicest sets of photo-etch out there, with intricate etching, clear instructions and some nice extras, and these new sets are no exception.

First we have a set of photo-etched webbing for US WWII airborne troops. Weapons slings for the Garand, M1 carbine and Thompson SMG, well-textured M36 belts and M36 suspenders, and the distinctive chin straps for the M1C jump helmet are included, as are two gauges of mesh and some scrim to replicate camouflage netting for the helmets. Enough parts for four figures are included. Superbly printed decals for a number of Airborne and Armoured Division uniform patches, along with helmet insignia and 48-star US flag shoulder patches, are also included. As a bonus you get some knives, forks, spoons and glasses for your figures, along with numbers that can be used as casting marks on US AFVs.

Next up is a nifty multimedia set for the gun platform of the new Dragon Sd.Kfz. 10/5 AA halftrack. Although there is a good-sized fret of photo-etched parts included, this set is dominated by a beautiful set of laser-cut mesh platforms (by Kamizukuri?). This is the first time that I've seen these parts in the flesh, and they do a far better job of depicting the deep mesh of these platforms than photo-etched or plastic. The parts seem quite robust and, at least in my test, take paint well. Note that this set depicts the platforms in the folded position (set P35-073 is for open platforms). Little Demag and MIAG hood ornaments are also included on the photo-etched fret. This set will really spice up the Dragon kit.

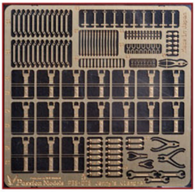
Finally we have two sets of German tool clamps (early and late types), using an innovative construction system that is the brainchild of Jenny Ryan from Tanks & Things. Everybody who has struggled to put together the intricate photo-etched clamps from other manufacturers know the pain and frustration involved. These clamps, which are workable when assembled (you never know when you're going to have to take that shovel off to dig out your tank, right?), differ in that the pins on the photo-etched parts are much larger than needed. This allows you to assemble the clamps and then trim the oversized pins off after everything's together. I have to say that I found these clamps much easier to assemble than either the ABER or Dragon ones I've worked with recently. These sets also have a couple of nice bonuses: the early set includes several wrenches and pliers, while the late set has scissors, wristwatches, straight razors, a pocket knife, and even a comb, all in photo-etch!

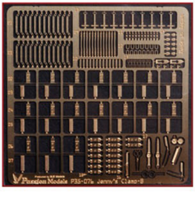
Great accessories for your next diorama.

All of these sets are highly recommended.

Thanks to M.S. Models for the samples http://msmodels.co.jp/

Scott Taylor





Luke Pitt tackles the vexed question of whether we should trust published plans as he discusses Trumpeter's new 1:35 scale Aerosan NKL-26.

Soviet Armoured Aerosan NKL-26
TRUMPETER
1/35 SCALE
02321
13

PUSHER PROP RECON

This new 1:35 scale kit from Trumpeter represents the Soviet NKL-26, which formed a rather unique group of units operating in Russia in the early part of the Second World War. They were used for scouting but, as one German veteran mentioned, they were so loud when on the move that the element of stealth and surprise was somewhat lost.

The first thing that strikes you about the kit is the outstanding box art by Vincent Wai. Vincent has really captured a "feeling of movement" with this box art. And this piece has all the hallmarks of a classic piece of plastic kit box art.

The kit comprises 158 plastic parts together with 73 photo-etched and 3 clear parts. The instructions are quite good with a well thought out and positive location guide together with a colour making sheet and a small decal sheet. The standard of moulding is superb overall. Some of the seams, however, are fairly prominent and care will be required when removing them from the sprue.

I remember scratch building one of these many years ago using the plans from an old edition of Airfix magazine dated November 1979. These plans were, I believe, based on an old Soviet dimensional drawing first published in a Russian publication from 1959. These plans were then translated many times with a 1:35 scale plan appearing in a Finnish IPMS publication in 1996. The Trumpeter kit follows those plans and dimensional drawings almost to the millimetre. If one were to trust these, then I could report that the kit is pretty much accurate in both shape and form. Tankograd has recently released a publication that devotes itself purely to the Aerosan and have published both the Soviet dimensional plan (page 47) and a new set of scale plans in 1:35 scale drawn by Sergei Ignatiev (page 48). These new plans seem to indicate that all previous drawings are inaccurate and the case is strengthened further, by many previously unpublished photographs of the real vehicle. These new scale plans however, include variations not shown in the photographs in the same publication (like the gun shield and side window shape)

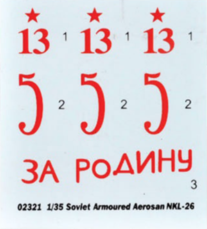
So where does this leave us? In a bit of a quandary really. It could be argued that the new drawings are more accurate as they are, after all, supported by photographs but in reality could there have been a different version too. Who knows? The rest of the kit is very well done with the engine assembly in particular being rendered to a very high standard. The four ski skids are also very well detailed but the skid pan itself is a little too thick in profile. The two figures provided are workmanlike and in reality nothing special but on the other hand they're not that bad either.

Overall this is not a bad kit by any stretch; however there is a question mark in regard to the body shape.

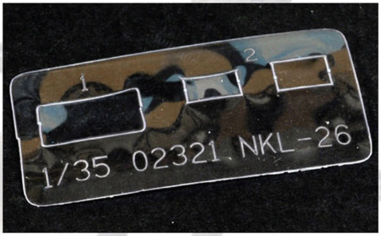
Recommended (with reservations) ■

Distributed in the UK by Pocketbond.

Thanks to J.B. Wholesalers for the sample www.jbwholesalers.com.au

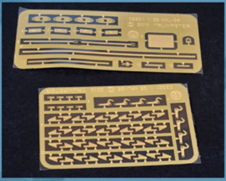


Markings are supplied for two machines.



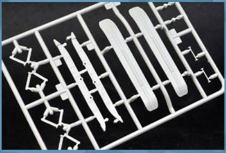
Windows are provided as die-cut clear acetate.

The body is supplied in two main pieces.

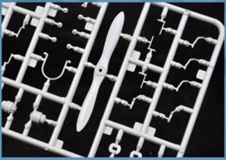


Two photo-etched frets enhance the detail.

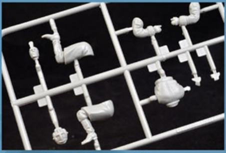
The standard of moulding is very high.



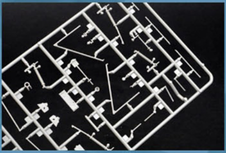
The ski parts are provided on their own sprue.



The two-bladed propeller.



The busy single crew figure is supplied.



Fine detail.

1:48 Scale - A round-up of the latest news and releases

IT'S A HOBBY, NOT A CHARACTER TEST!

How many of us have a kit that just won't go together? No matter what we do, no matter how hard we try, and it simply won't go together. I've run into a few of these in my time, I can tell you. In my youth I considered it a challenge, thinking (as I did when I was young), that nothing can beat me (least of all a plastic kit!). I would work at it and spend a vast amount of time, trying to fit the kit together. Now, a wise man will tell you this is a character building experience, and as we work through the problems in a systematic way we will learn from our mistakes and thus become a better modeller and indeed person.

Well I am here to tell you that is absolute and utter nonsense! Building a kit that won't go together is pretty much like hitting your head with a hammer and telling yourself, "Gee this is really good, I'm learning something from this". I mean, really, what are you learning, apart from the hammer will eventually crack your skull?

It's a hobby, not a character test!

Our hobby should give us joy - not make us angry or frustrated. It should be a pleasurable experience. Put simply, if a kit is giving you a hard time, put it aside and start something else!

Modellers often ask me what gives me pleasure in modelling, as I have a disposition to over detail and make things more complicated than they need to be. Well, my greatest joy is seeing a well detailed model complete (it can be mine or someone else's to tell you the truth). I also like opening new kits, much like a drug addict craving another hit. I love opening the box and thinking of the possibilities. It's a hobby people. It's not hurting anyone and indeed it won't cure cancer. It will, however, give you a whole lot of joy. Anyway, enough of this, I need to get back to that kit that has been giving me fits!

Until next time Luke Pitt

Verlinden Productions
2380 G.M.C. 2.5 Ton Truck Cargo Set 1:48 Scale
Made in the USA

VERLINDEN

1:48 SCALE - G.M.C. 2.5 TON TRUCK CARGO SET • ITEM NO. 2380

As the title states, this set is designed to keep the cargo bay of the Tamiya 'Deuce and a half' looking busy, but the uses for the pieces in this set certainly don't stop there.

The set comprises no less than 32 pieces of "cargo" all cast in cream coloured resin. The set includes 13 drums, 7 bedrolls/tarps, 5 crate stacks, and 7 pieces of personal kit. My favourite piece is definitely the jacket sculpted as it would appear having been removed by the GI who was wearing it and draped over a flat surface.

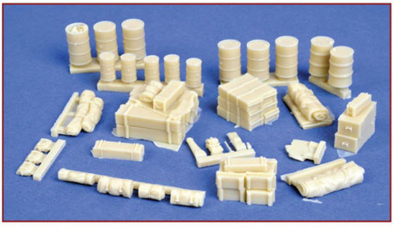
The parts in my example set are all very well cast, and the bigger parts will require very minimal cleanup due to thoughtful casting. There's some really nice detail on some of the parts such as fine wood grain on the crates and delicately rendered buckles and straps on the bedrolls. As mentioned above, there are numerous pieces consisting of wooden crate stacks all cast as a single piece. These feature some well-sculpted details such as a tarp draped across the crates and bedrolls moulded in situ.

This is a very useful set, and it certainly fits its intended purpose – i.e. to fill up the back of a WWII US military truck.

Highly Recommended.

Thanks to Verlinden for the sample www.verlindenproductions.com

Alex Dutt



Tank Workshop 48
TWS 48014
TWS 48015
TWS 48016
TWS 48017

TANK WORKSHOP

1:48 SCALE

SHERMAN UPDATE SETS

Adding to their expanding range of 1:48 scale products, Tank Workshop is treating fans of the Sherman to some new goodies. These new items are designed for the Tamiya and Hobby Boss kits of the Sherman, and are beautifully cast and ready to use.

Set 48014 is the M4A2 Cast Hood, small hatch hull type, and comes with a new upper hull, and parts for the rear plate which includes new exhausts.

Set 48015 is the M4A2 Welded Hood, small hatch version, which, as per the previous set, comes with a new upper hull and rear plate parts.

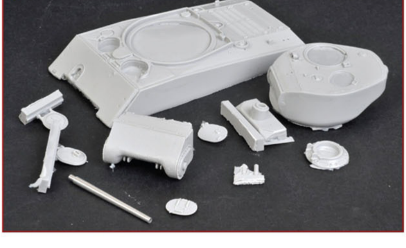
Set 48016 is an M4A2 conversion set for either the Tamiya or Hobby Boss kit. It comprises a new engine hatch, and rear plate parts.

Parts clean up is very easy, as there's only a tiny amount of flash to remove from the hatch openings, plus a couple of moulding plugs, but that's about it. There are no instructions supplied, but these sets are so straightforward to use that none are really necessary.

Highly Recommended.

Thanks to Tank Workshop for the review samples www.tankworkshop.com

Bill Wiseman



Luke Pitt hosts MMI's examination of the growing world of 1:48 scale military models, figures and accessories.

MMI 1:48 Scale Q&A with Konrad Schreier - a True Believer

Konrad Schreier is an attorney living in Southern California. He has been involved in modelling since building Aurora biplane and tank kits with his father in the 1960s. Since then, he has built hundreds of models, all in a constant 1:48 scale. His involvement with quarter scale armor dates back to his days on the old Yahoo Bandai armour forum well before Tamiya had produced its first 1:48 scale military kit. This involvement evolved into helping him with articles and reviews as part of his development of the Track48 website. On that site he continues to participate in the capacity of Reviews Editor. He is also an active member of his AMPS chapter, which has added a lot of fun to his modelling and lets him share his enthusiasm for 1:48 armor subjects with his fellow AMPS members. Konrad is one of the "true believers" of 1:48 scale and for that reason it is a real pleasure to interview him this month and to coin a phrase "Old School Rules"

THE INTERVIEW

Luke: Hi Konrad. Good to have you with us. What would you consider to be your best 1:48 scale model and why?

Konrad: *That is an interesting question. I think the answer is much like the old proverb of the three blind men and the elephant. From the perspective of detail, the best model I have constructed so far is undoubtedly my Bandai Panther G, which I did at the beginning of the 1:48 renaissance. At that time Tamiya had just brought out the Kubelwagen kit, but none of their new armour was yet on the scene. With a set of accurate resin tracks and hull detail parts that Garfield Ingram had created for his own Bandai Panther project and one of the first Schatton brass barrels added to the project I was able to update the old Bandai kit to a much higher standard. Adding scratch built bits to create a full hull and turret interior, corrected stowage and upgraded hull details for the model as well. From the prospective of ambitious efforts, the nearly complete Fighting48 Sherman Crab project I have under way is the most complex, and working with Tim Perry's beautiful multi-media kit has really stretched my building skills; when complete it should be the most impressive. As far as my sentimental favourite, it is probably the Monogram Cletrac tow tractor that was basically re-done as a scratch built model when I first started building 1:48 vehicles again after a long stretch building 1:48 aircraft. Although not technically an armour model it was fully tracked and cute as a bug. My dad helped me a lot with research information on this really obscure vehicle, so it also reminds me of him.*

Luke: Nice story about your Dad Konrad. What is the most influential 1:48 scale model that you have seen in print and why?

Konrad: *The first time I saw Luciano Rodriguez post one of his builds on Track48 forum years back, it really caught my eye. Both Garfield and I had been longtime aircraft modellers, and my armour painting ideas we were filtered by that discipline. Although I had been attending seminars on armour building at the annual TamiyaCon shows here in Southern California for several years, the vibrant painting style that Lu brought to his 1:48 armour subjects was an exciting and new. The use of mapping, colour modulation, shadow and light, streaking, staining and adding pigments to the finishing of 1:48 scale armour made me rethink my approach to finishing my models. Although I haven't near the painting talent of Lu and the many others who have brought artistry to the world of 1:48 armour modelling, the lessons learned from their work has hopefully made my painting more evocative of the actual vehicles themselves.*

Luke: If you had to pick one kit that should be made in 1:48 what would that be?

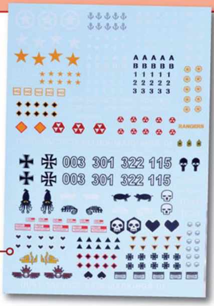
Konrad: *That is a wonderful question, since unlike some other scales, there are some really important vehicles that remain to be done in 1:48 scale. Armour modelling often seems to revolve around Germany, and as it does in other scales, Tamiya and the other manufacturers that have joined them have covered a lot of ground there, although, there are some obvious omissions (such as the Panther Ausf. A). My inclination would be to add something from the other side of the conflict. The ubiquitous US Army half-track, although covered long ago by Bandai, seems like a natural, and a well-chosen version would give its maker a lot of possible variations. For something both more massive and more well known, the Churchill series of tanks is another gap in the line-up (discounting the ancient Aurora kit), and an earlier mark with lots of modelling flexibility would be another great choice. Then of course for something truly massive, not to mention well off the beaten path, there is the Cold War era M65 Atomic Cannon and its huge wheeled transporters. But for a kit that lends itself to the advantages of 1:48 scale and that is a natural for paring with many other available kits, the 40 ton Dragon Wagon tank transporter is my pick for the ideal next quarter scale model.*

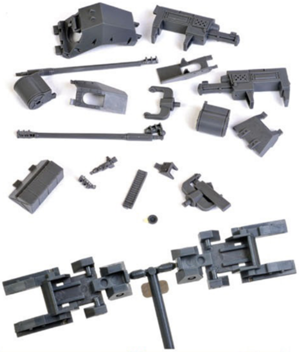
Luke: Yes, a Dragon Wagon is one of my favourites too. Thanks for your time Konrad. I am always inspired by your builds and know a lot of others are too.

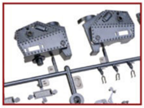
Konrad: *Thanks Luke for the great work you are doing with the column*

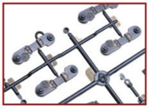
48th 1:48 Scale - A round-up of the latest news and releases

DUST MODELS
DTM001
SCHWER PANZER KAMPFLAUFER IV
"JAGDLUTHER"
1:48 SCALE
PLASTIC+RESIN
MODEL KIT
DUST TACTICS









DUST TACTICS

DUST MODELS

1:48 SCALE
SCHWER PANZER KAMPFLAUFER IV "JAGDLUTHER"
KIT NO. DTM001

The world of science fantasy scale models is new to me so when I was asked to review this particular kit, I looked forward to the challenge. If the name doesn't roll of the tongue easily enough, the kit contents and ease of build will be sure to give the modeller a refreshing change from your typical subjects.

The approximately 80 pieces come packed in a sturdy box and comprise of plastic injected parts, a small decal sheet and cast resin parts. The instructions are very straightforward, with the kit going together in three construction steps. On the reverse of the instruction sheet is a nicely printed colour image of the kit for painting and decal placement purposes. The great thing with these type of subjects is that you can pretty much paint and decal them any way you like.

The plastic parts are provided on three sprues and are very well moulded with excellent surface detail and only the odd bit of very fine flash here and there. The origin of some of these parts is quite evident as being sourced/copied form some of the larger 1:48 scale German panzers and look like they always could have been destined for this type of futuristic model.

The resin parts are beautifully cast and will require careful removal of some of the pour plugs so as not to damage the piece. The surface and recessed detail on these parts is quite amazing and a clear testament to the use of resin in being able to capture such fine details.

This is a very nicely produced mixed media kit and I am looking forward to making some time to put the kit together. I look forward to more releases of this type of model where "rivet counting" and accuracy to a specific unit and point in time are not really an issue.

Highly Recommended.

Thanks to Dust Model for the review sample www.dustgame.com

Ross Ferro

CMK CZECH MASTER'S KITS
HIGH QUALITY CAST PRODUCT
8009
Pz.IV Bergepanzer
Conversion set for Tamiya kit
1/48

CMK CZECH MASTER'S KITS
HIGH QUALITY CAST PRODUCT
8003
Bergetiger
Conversion set for Tamiya kit
1/48

CMK

1:35 SCALE
ITEM NO. 8003 BERGETIGER (CONVERSION SET FOR TAMIYA KIT)
ITEM NO. 8009 BERGEPANZER IV (CONVERSION SET FOR TAMIYA KIT)

CMK's Bergetiger conversion set is designed to convert Tamiya's Tiger kit to represent a field modified vehicle of s.Pz.Abt.508. The true purpose of the real vehicle (and the amount of Tigers converted in this arrangement) is open for debate. Some believe that the vehicle was a designated recovery vehicle (hence the non-official title of "Bergetiger"), whilst others favour the theory that the vehicle was actually modified to lay explosive charges on the battlefield.

CMK's kit comprises 23 parts very nicely cast in grey-green resin and a clear one page instruction sheet. The resin parts mostly relate to the crane/jib components of the 'Bergetiger', with a few larger parts (such as turret roof, mantlet, and cupola) which are also included to update Tamiya's Tiger kit. No material is supplied for the 'rigging' of the crane/jib.

It is worth noting that the real 'Bergetiger' was based on a 'mid' production Tiger. The Tamiya Tiger kit that this conversion set is designed for is actually an 'early' model. As such, I would suggest that one would need to do a little homework and further conversion of the Tamiya kit beyond what is included in the CMK set if you were looking for a truly accurate depiction of the 'Bergetiger'. The real 'Bergetiger' also had Zimmerit (not included in the CMK set).

Recommended if you're looking to build something unique and you're willing to do a little extra work beyond what's included in the CMK kit.

The Bergepanzer IV was a recovery vehicle used by the German forces in WWII. Depending on which source you rely upon, it is said that around 21 of these vehicles were built, between late 1944 and early 1945.

The CMK Bergepanzer IV kit is a relatively simple set designed for Tamiya's Panzer IV Ausf.J kit. The CMK kit consists of 16 resin pieces cast in a cream coloured resin. The casting quality is excellent, and the pieces include some of the most delicate detail that I have ever seen on a resin kit. Also included is a one page instruction sheet with clear and easy to follow instructions. As a side note, no rigging material is supplied for the pulleys.

This set looks like a quick yet rewarding project to put together. Given the simplicity of the kit, I would suggest that this particular conversion would be an excellent project for the resin conversion first timer. This conversion also has outstanding diorama potential as the completed kit could be readily posed towing disabled vehicles off the battlefield.

Highly recommended.

Thanks to MPM for the sample www.mpm.cz

Alex Dutt

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Shizuoka 422-8610 JAPAN
www.tamiya.com

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THE HOBBY COMPANY LIMITED
Garforth Place, Knowlhill, Milton Keynes, MK5 8PG, UK
Tel; 01908 605686 Fax; 01908 605666
enquiries@hobbyco.net
www.hobbyco.net

TRUMPETER
www.trumpeter-china.com
Pocketbond in the UK

VERLINDEN PRODUCTIONS
(Historex in UK)
811 Lone Star Drive, O'Fallon, Missouri 63366, USA
www.verlinden-productions.com

VALLEJO
(Creative Models in UK)
Acrylicos Vallejo, SL Apartado 337 - 08800
Vilanova i la Geltrú, Barcelona, Spain
Tel; (34) 93 893 60 12
Fax; (34) 93 893 11 54
www.acrylicosvallejo.com

VLS CORPORATION
(LSA in UK)
(TRAKZ, WINGZ, CUSTOM DIORAMICS, WARRIORS);
Lincoln County Industrial Park, 1011 Industrial Court,
Moscow Mills, Missouri 63362, USA
www.modelmecca.com

WHITE ENSIGN
Unit 5, Cobnash Industrial Estate, HR6 9RW
Tel; 0844 415 0914
wem@onetel.com
www.whiteensignmodels.com

WWII PRODUCTIONS, AUSTRALIA
12 Prince Street, Waratah, 2298, NSW, Australia
Tel; +61 (0)2 4967 3205
Fax; +61 (0)2 4967 3207
ww2prod@optusnet.com.au

ZVEZDA
(The Hobby Company in UK)
Promishlennaia Str.,2, Lobnya, Moscow Region,
141730 Russia
office@zvezda.org.ru
www.zvezda.org.ru

■ ***Please mention 'Model Military International' if you make contact with any of the companies listed above - thanks!***

Next Issue

On sale 5th April 2012

ADLER

Federico Collada presents his 1:35 scale Brocno Kfz.14 Adler

FROZEN WHEELS

Jamie Haggo builds the Tamiya Opel Blitz in 1:48 scale, and tackles a challenging winter finish

BIG GUN

Jim Wechsler builds AFV Club's 1:35 scale M1128 Stryker Mobile Gun System (MGS), the 'big gun' in the Stryker family

BELTRING PANZERS

Zack Sex offers photo coverage of the Panzers at 2011's War and Peace Show

FOR YOUR SAFETY

Don't forget, when using solvents such as glues, paints, thinners and cleaning agents, always ventilate your work area thoroughly and wear a face mask.

When using power tools, side cutters or any tool that can suddenly break or create high-speed airborne particles, wear approved eye protectors with hard, clear lenses. Please always model in safety!

...and much more!

Due to many influencing factors, we cannot guarantee the appearance of the above projects, but we'll try our best!

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www.fsc.org
www.pefc.org

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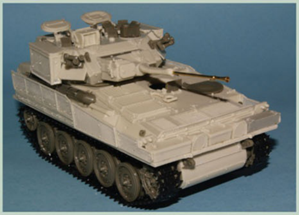
CAST-OFF MODELS RELAUNCHED

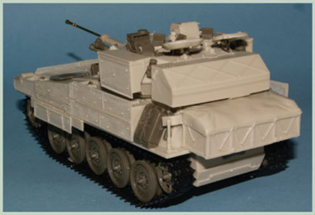
After a prolonged break, resin manufacturer Cast-Off Models is back in the market.

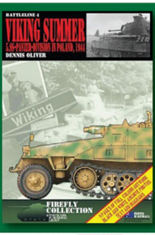
Their first new release is a 1:35 scale up-armoured Scimitar LEP, as seen in Iraq, for the AFV Club Scimitar. As you can see there isn't much left of the original kit!

This joins the stable with the LEP, Sabre, early hull and hull with the floatation screen.

For more information see Cast-Off Models website *www.castoff-models.com*







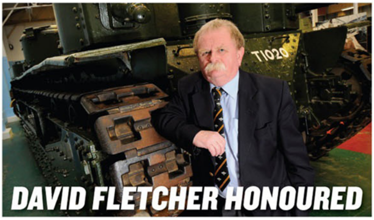
COMING IN 2012
STUG
121

2012 TITLES FOR OLIVER PUBLISHING GROUP

The Oliver Publishing Group has another busy year lined up, with the following forthcoming titles nearing publication:

Fortress: German Armour And the Defence Of Sicily - The tireless Claude Gillono - author of the Hermann Goering In Sicily book - examines all the German armoured units that attempted to repel the first Allied invasion of Europe. With new photos and illustrations.

Viking Summer: 5.SS-Panzer-Division in Poland, 1944 - With many black and white archive photos sourced with the help of Fox Company research this book will feature 9 pages of full colour artwork (which will be the standard from this release on, with no price increase). There are also Allied subjects and the previously promised STUG: Assault Gun Units In The East, Operation Bagration To Berlin, which as a special will come with 17 pages of colour illustrations depicting over 50 different vehicles. More details and full reviews will follow.



DAVID FLETCHER HONOURED

The Tank Museum's Historian, David Fletcher, has been awarded an MBE in the Queens New Year's Honours list.

David, who is the Dorset Museum's longest serving member of staff, has become an internationally renowned author and tank expert and was awarded the MBE for his services to the history of armoured warfare.

"Of course, I am hugely honoured by this award especially entering my 30th year of service at The Tank Museum," said David, "But in truth I have only been doing my job; a job which is in many respects a hobby. From that perspective I am very lucky."

He first visited The Tank Museum in the early 1960's, and was instantly captivated by the vast collection of armour on display.

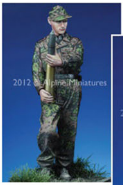
"I found the subject interesting from the start. Unlike other forms of military transport, there is no civilian equivalent of the tank – which makes these machines immediately fascinating as you rarely see them in normal life."

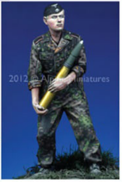
"I kept coming back, later as a volunteer researcher, because there was still a lot more I wanted to learn about armoured warfare. At that time, there was very little written about the subject whereas, if one was interested in trains or planes there were a vast number of books you could go and read."

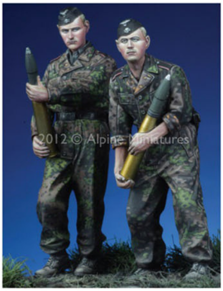
David, who had no background in academic history, had unwittingly set out to become the world's foremost expert on the subject. Since becoming an employee at the museum in 1982, his work includes; 30 books, hundreds of articles, and numerous appearances on documentaries shown around the world.

Tank Museum spokesman Nik Wyness said; "David is not just an asset to The Tank Museum, he is a part of what has made it. Few self-taught enthusiasts can claim to be genuine, globally recognised experts in their field, and this award marks his vast and invaluable contribution to the important study of armoured warfare.

"David is a pioneer whose unpretentious `do-it-yourself` attitude is reminiscent of the early British tank crews themselves; and this has made him well-liked as well as well-respected in the historical community. He is a credit to the British armoured regiments whose heritage he has so lovingly helped to preserve and share with the world." ■







ALPINE MINIATURES NEW RELEASES

Alpine Miniatures has announced its first new releases for 2012:

- 35133 SS Panzer Crew Kursk #1 (1/35) - MSRP $18.00 USD
- 35134 SS Panzer Crew Kursk #2 (1/35) - MSRP $18.00 USD
- 35135 SS Panzer Crew Kursk Set 2 figures (1/35) - MSRP $34.00 USD

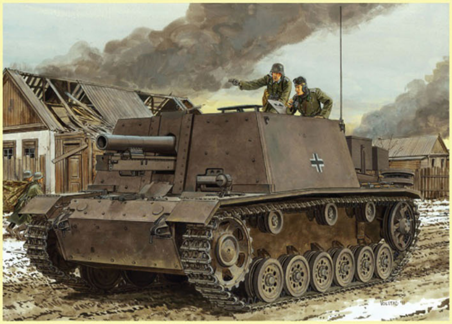
Available from specialist retailers worldwide and online from Alpine Miniatures *www.alpineminiatures.com*

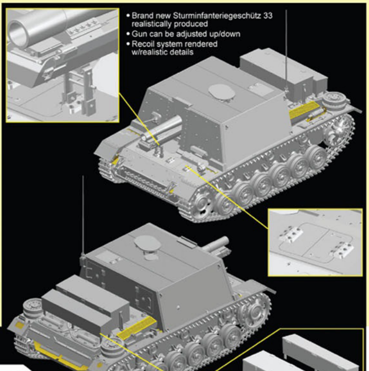
1:35 '39-'45 SERIES

s.I.G.33 auf Fgst.Pz.Kpfw.III(Sfl.)

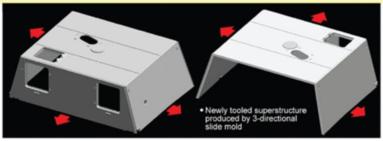
Smart Kit

Engineered for modeling enjoyment | **Plastic parts with enhanced detail** | **Unprecedented value** | **Ready for immediate assembly!**

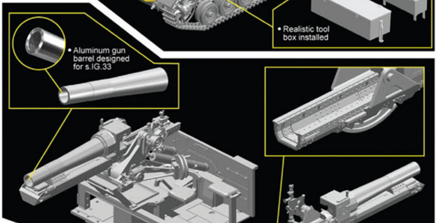




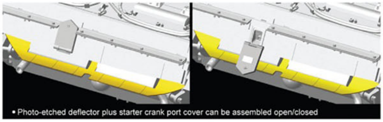
- Brand new Sturminfanteriegeschütz 33 realistically produced
- Gun can be adjusted up/down
- Recoil system rendered w/realistic details
- Realistic tool box installed



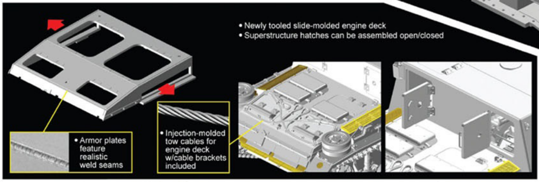
- Newly tooled superstructure produced by 3-directional slide mold



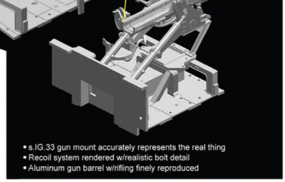
- Aluminum gun barrel designed for s.IG.33



- Photo-etched deflector plus starter crank port cover can be assembled open/closed



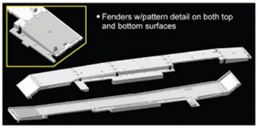
- Newly tooled slide-molded engine deck
- Superstructure hatches can be assembled open/closed
- Armor plates feature realistic weld seams
- Injection-molded tow cables for engine deck w/cable brackets included



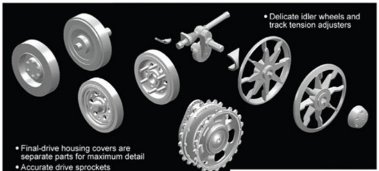
- s.IG.33 gun mount accurately represents the real thing
- Recoil system rendered w/realistic bolt detail
- Aluminum gun barrel w/rifling finely reproduced

- Slide-molded cooling air intake
- Photo-etched air-intake grills

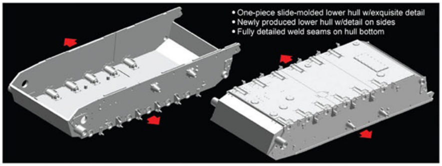
- Injection-molded fender and photo-etched support for maximum realism



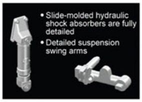
- Fenders w/pattern detail on both top and bottom surfaces



- Delicate idler wheels and track tension adjusters
- Final-drive housing covers are separate parts for maximum detail
- Accurate drive sprockets
- Road wheels w/accurate detail



- One-piece slide-molded lower hull w/exquisite detail
- Newly produced lower hull w/detail on sides
- Fully detailed weld seams on hull bottom



- Slide-molded hydraulic shock absorbers are fully detailed
- Detailed suspension swing arms

- Exhaust pipes w/hollow ends

Magic Track
PATENT REGISTERED

- Delicate Magic Tracks reproduced

D6713

DRAGON

Dragon Kits are distributed in the UK by The Hobby Company Limited, Knowlhill, Milton Keynes, MK5 8PG
See the full Dragon range at www.hobbyco.net
Dragon models are available from all good model shops

THE HOBBY COMPANY LIMITED
www.hobbyco.net

TAMIYA

1/16
SCALE
R/C TANK

TIGER IN THE SAND

Item 84273

1/16 Scale R/C German Tiger I Early Production Full-Option Kit (w/Detail-Up Parts)

Developed with the goal of creating a model that would provide the most authentic tank control experience, Tamiya's 1/16 Scale R/C Tiger I offers intense sound effects which coincide with realistic operations as well as dramatic muzzle flashes that accompany the 88mm main gun and the hull-mounted machine gun firing actions. This model kit is now available with a metal gun barrel, photo-etched engine grilles, and other detailing parts to increase its realism. Furthermore, parts for two types of gun mantlet, air cleaner, and exhaust cover are included to enable depiction of Tiger I tanks which were deployed to Russia and North Africa. Parts for two commander torso figures, depicted in European and desert uniforms respectively, are also included.

Precision-made aluminum gun barrel

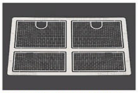
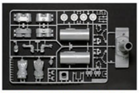


Photo-etched engine grilles

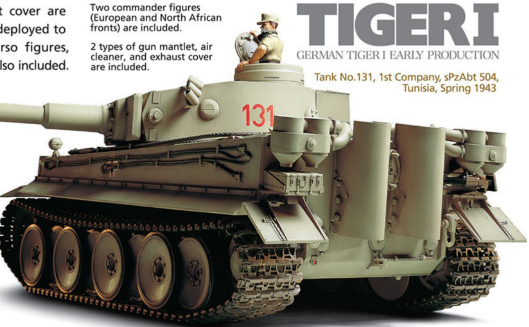

Depict a Tiger I on the North African front.

Two commander figures (European and North African fronts) are included.

2 types of gun mantlet, air cleaner, and exhaust cover are included.

TIGER I
GERMAN TIGER I EARLY PRODUCTION

Tank No.131, 1st Company, sPzAbt 504, Tunisia, Spring 1943



Length: 530mm

TIGER I
TAMIYA

Full-Option kit comes in a substantial package.

MF01
DMD CONTROL UNIT

Comes with DMD T-03 and DMD MF-01 units.

●4-channel transmitter (Futaba Attack T4VWD recommended), battery pack, and batteries for transmitter are separately required.

Also Available in Tamiya's 1/16 Scale R/C Tank Series

Item 56022

German Panther Type G Full-Option Kit

Item 56016

U.S. Medium Tank M26 Pershing (T26E3) Full-Option Kit

Item 56018

German Heavy Tank King Tiger "Production Turret" Full-Option Kit

Item 56030

Russian Heavy Tank KV-2 Gigant Full-Option Kit

TAMIYA,INC. 3-7 ONDAWARA,SURUGA-KU,SHIZUOKA 422-8610 JAPAN

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